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— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

On Zinow Street, getting to know your neighbors is a picnic

By Ian Perrotta

If you ask Hamtramck resident Russ Gordon, there are two things that bring people together: food and children. So naturally, last Saturday (Sept. 18) he held a picnic.

It wasn't just any picnic, however. Since 2007, Gordon has organized the late-summer event as an international picnic designed to introduce neighbors to each other and their cultures. It all started

when he notices that, while the different groups were friendly toward each other, they didn't necessarily mix with the others.

"Five years ago, all the groups knew each other, but they weren't really acquainted," he says, "so I figured this would be a good way for people to get to know what the person next door does. We bring food and kids,

Continued on page 3



At the 4th Annual Zinow International BBQ neighbors got a chance to hang out and get to know each other. Highlights included a game of soccer, shots of Slijivovica and an assortment of international foods.

Auto theft unit spared budget ax

By Charles Sercombe

As if on cue, just as Hamtramck police officials were coming back with good news about the city's auto theft prevention unit, police officers here apprehended two suspected carjackers.

Talk about timing.

"It underscores the need for the auto theft unit," said Police Chief Mark Kalinowski.

As of August, there was a real possibility that Hamtramck would lose its two-man auto theft unit. City Manager Bill Cooper was saying at the time that the city could no longer afford to

Continued on page 2

Health fair comes to town

About 100 kids and parents came out to last Saturday's health fair at the Hamtramck High School Community Center.

The event was sponsored by State Sen. Martha Scott through her M.G. Scott Foundation. Over 40 health-related vendors were there to perform a host of health screenings and cooking demonstrations as well as offer free samples of all sorts of goodies.



Staff from the Henry Ford Health System pose for a photo with Review Publisher John Ulaj (second from left) at last Saturday's health fair held in town.

Also there were the folks from the Henry Ford Health Clinic here in town. The Ford clinic has been stepping up its community presence in recent months and plans on doing more promotion.

Quick Hits

This Sunday (Sept. 26), St. Lad's will celebrate its 90th anniversary with a special Mass, which will be in Polish and English. After the mass the parishioners will head off to a banquet at noon.

We wish the parishioners well and hope the church survives another 90 years. As they say, Sto Lat!

This week in history

• It's 1943 and things are going badly for Poland, which is caught in the grip of the Nazis. With so many Hamtramckans of Polish descent and many with families over there, a Tribute to Poland rally was held.

• The last toast was held back in 2002 over at the former Lili's 21 Club (which is now called The Painted Lady). Lili, darling, you are forever in our thoughts and so terribly missed.

• Hamtramck's only fatal bus crash occurred in 1942 when a bus was crushed by a train on Caniff. Sixteen people were killed and 27 were injured.

Source: Hamtramck Historical Commission

Freeway car fire underscores safety threat to firefighters

By Charles Sercombe

A suspected case of road rage tied up southbound traffic on I-75 for over four hours Monday afternoon.

Michigan State Police are investigating the shooting of a pick-up driver on Hamtramck's portion of I-75. The victim, who the state police are not identifying, was shot at least twice — through his lungs and spine.

The driver lost control of his car when his fender partially fell off and rubbed against a front tire, which in turn started a fire, said Hamtramck Fire Chief Steve Paruk.

Hamtramck firefighters were called to the scene, but

were delayed because they had to first drive up to 6 Mile Rd. and double back south of Caniff. Paruk said freeway fires are potentially life-threatening for firefighters.

"A lot of people don't see our flashing lights and pull over," Paruk said.

The shooting/accident happened around 4:45 p.m., during rush hour traffic. Southbound traffic was backed up past the I-696 interchange.

State police say the victim is in critical condition. No arrests have been made, and it was unclear at press time if the victim was able to provide details of the shooting or a description of the shooter.



Michigan State Police are investigating the shooting of the driver of this pickup on Monday on I-75. The truck subsequently erupted in fire, which tied up southbound traffic for four hours.

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Auto theft unit spared budget ax

Continued from front page

kick in its half of the cost for salaries.

The auto theft investigators are paid through a matching grant from the state's insurance companies. Basically the deal is 50-50. Cooper said in August that since the city was facing a \$3.3 million deficit, he couldn't spare the \$80,000 it takes to fund the two investigators.

In the meantime, Cooper and others were trying to find a way to increase the state's funding, or perhaps get 100 percent funding for at least one investigator. As

the weeks went by, it became apparent that the city might face losing the entire grant.

So, Cooper did more research and found out that the city can receive money from unclaimed stolen cars that are sold. The city can also claim cash and tools that are confiscated from chop shops that are either busted in Hamtramck, or are located outside the city but have a Hamtramck theft connection.

Cooper said it's likely the city will be able to recoup the \$80,000 that goes to

the investigators' salaries.

The issue of stolen vehicles is no small matter in Hamtramck. In 2009, 361 vehicles were stolen.

Chief Kalinowski said the number of cases handled by the investigators is much higher when you consider all the vehicle-related crimes, which includes larcenies from vehicles and other smaller crimes.

He said the two-man unit is assigned about 1,000 cases per year. When you consider that the police department has only four detectives, Kalinowski said

there is no way the detective bureau could handle vehicle thefts if the auto unit was disbanded.

And in another twist to this story, the two auto theft investigators, Greg Collins and Glenn Kay, were recently named investigators of the year. Kay has

since retired from the department.

Chief Kalinowski said although things looked dire for the unit, a lot of behind-the-scenes work was being done by a number of folks to save the funding for the unit, most notable City Councilmember Cathie Gor-

don, City Manager Bill Cooper, and especially State Rep. Bert Johnson.

"It was a concerted effort," Kalinowski said.

Go Out On the HAMTOWN!

This week at the library...

ESL Class for Beginners - Saturday, Sept. 25 at 10:30 a.m. Christine Templin is the instructor for the ESL class for beginners. Everyone is invited. Free to the public.

Storytime for Children - Saturday, Sept. 25 at noon. All children are invited.

Author, Miroslawa Wojszwillo - Saturday, Sept. 25 at 2 p.m. Evening with the author who will present her new book, "Po Sladach Historii," which chronicles her experiences from Eastern Europe, Lithuania, Soviet Union and USA. Everyone is invited.

Computer Classes for Beginners - Tuesday, Sept. 28 at 11:30 a.m. Basic computer instructions for beginners will be held on Tuesdays. The number of participants is limited to available computers.

Reading and Conversation for ESL Students - Tuesday, Sept. 28 at 3 p.m. Jide Aje is the instructor for the reading and conversation ESL classes.

Math Club Meeting - Tuesday, Sept. 28 at 4 p.m. Mr. Nuo is the new instructor for the math club and math tutoring.

Movie Wednesday - Wednesday, Sept. 29 at 3:30 p.m. Every Wednesday is movie day at the library. Come and enjoy our feature presentation including popcorn and snacks.

Computer Classes for Intermediate Users

- Thursday, Sept. 30 at 11:30 a.m. Adults with basic computer skills can enhance their computer literacy each Thursday at the library. The number of participants is limited to available computers.

Jeopardy at the Library - Thursday Sept. 30 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.

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

Friends of the Library Meeting - Thursday, Oct. 21 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.

Mobile Flu Shot Clinic - Registration is being held for the flu shots at the library. All registered individuals will be notified by American HealthCare Service when to come to the library for their seasonal flu shot. (Flu vaccine approved by the C.D.C.)

Special Thanks for Donations: Glynn Coleman; Margaret Czarnik; Ralph Rinaldi; Daniel Rakoczy and Rickey Ross.

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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To the Qualified Electors of
HAMTRAMCK CITY – WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Notice is hereby given that **Monday, October 4, 2010** is the **last day to register** to vote or change your address for the above stated election.

If you are not currently registered to vote or have changed your address in the above stated jurisdiction in which you live you may do so at the following locations and times listed in this notice.

IN PERSON:

- At your city or township clerk's office or at the office of any county clerk during normal business hours.

- At any of the Secretary of State Branch offices located throughout the state during normal business hours.

- At the specified agency for clients receiving services through the Family Independence Agency, the Department of Community Health, Michigan Jobs Commission and some of the Commission for the Blind.

- At the military recruitment offices for persons enlisting in the armed forces.

BY MAIL:

By obtaining and completing a Mail Voter Registration Application and forwarding to the election official as directed on the application by the close of registration deadline. Mail voter registration applications may be obtained by contacting:

T. EDWIN NORRIS, CITY CLERK
313-876-7700 – OPTION 3
3401 EVALINE, HAMTRAMCK, MI 48212

NOTE:

A person who registers to vote by mail is required to vote in person unless they have previously voted in person in the city/township where they live or are at least 60 years of age.



Public Notice Wayne County Residents

The Wayne County Treasurer's September public auction of tax foreclosed properties* will be conducted ONLINE. The auction will begin on **September 17 and conclude on September 23, 2010**. For more information about how to register and participate in the September auction, please visit:

www.bid4assets.com/wayne

Potential bidders *without access to a computer* should **contact Bid4Assets at 1-877-4-Assets** for more information about how to register and bid. Special procedures are in place to accommodate these bidders and will require completion of an Offline Bid Form.

All bidders must register with Bid4Assets by submitting a \$1,000.00 deposit and \$25.00 processing fee, a total of \$1,025.00, in the form of a Cashier's Check or bank wire in U.S. funds, to Bid4Assets, Inc. prior to September 10, 2010.

NO AUCTION ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE OFFICE OF THE WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER.

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Wayne County Treasurer

*The Wayne County Treasurer, as the foreclosing governmental unit, under Public Act 123 of 1999, reserves the right to remove any property from the sale and to reject any and all bids. The Terms and Conditions of Sale and a list of the properties offered are available online at the Wayne County Treasurer's website: www.treasurer.waynecounty.com

Second Front Page

Bar sting stirs up question of timing

By Charles Sercombe

Coincidence or retaliation? That's a question that came up this week among some in the community after a recent police sting on several local bars.

Last Friday, Hamtramck police sent two minors to several bars to see if they would get served alcohol. Two of the bars targeted happened to be owned by City Councilmembers Tom Jankowski and Cathie Gordon.

The bartender at Jankowski's Whiskey in the Jar on Yemens St. fell for the bait and was cited for serving minors.

Gordon's bar, New Dodge Lounge, avoided being cited because the minors were turned away after they could not produce an ID.

The sting raised some eyebrows because it happened after a recent controversy over the City Council holding up the purchase of bullet proof vests for the Police Department. Jankowski insisted that officers should kick in 50 percent of the cost despite available funding that would not require the city to spend a cent.

Jankowski has been trying to force the police officers' two unions to make contract concessions because of a projected \$3.3 million city deficit. So far, the unions have balked at any concessions.

Gordon agreed to hold up the vote on the vests per

Jankowski's request. Although the two eventually joined with the rest of the council to unanimously approve the purchase, there were sore feelings from some police officers.

Asked if she thought the sting was in retaliation for her hesitance in approving the purchase, Gordon said: "I would hope not."

After having it pointed out that it at least appears to be coincidental in timing, she agreed, saying: "You have a point."

Jankowski refused to comment, saying he has not received official notification of the violation.

The officer in charge of the sting, Detective-Sgt. Dan Misiak, said there was absolutely no connection between the vest controversy and the sting.

"This was due to LLC complaints we received," Misiak said.

Misiak said the department conducts several stings throughout the year, which also involves checking on stores that sell alcohol and cigarettes. The LLC, the state agency that controls liquor licenses, gives the police department \$25,000 a year to offset overtime costs for the stings.

Misiak said this was the third bar sting this year. He said other bars snared in the sting were Kelly's Bar and 88th Ave. A couple of other bars were also tested, but

passed the sting.

Gordon credited her employees for being alert. But that wasn't the only thing she had to contend with on Friday night. She had to kick out a customer who refused to show her ID. The customer

became unruly and punched her in the face, causing a slight concussion.

"In 25 years I've never had anyone put a hand on me," Gordon said. "It's a changed world."

On Zinow Street, getting to know your neighbors is a picnic

Continued from front page

everyone plays together, and it's a really good time."

The first picnic was so successful that it spawned the current tradition. Now, neighbors say hi to one another in their neighbor's language, help each other out with household chores, and look after each others' houses when one family is away. And when new residents move in, neighbors are quick to make them feel welcome.

"This block is better than all the other ones," says Salauddin Chowdhury, who formerly lived on Casmere. "Everyone is very friendly, very nice."

One friendly resident of Zinow is Ismira Lokmic, who along with her daughter Lejla has lived on the block for the last few years. At the picnic, she sat with a group of friends and neighbors, dining on Cevapi, Polish Sausage, Tandoori Chicken and a spit-roasted lamb. As a group of

kids played soccer while a group of men joked around and drank Slijivovica, she remarked that there is something about the area that makes it different from others.

"Everyone who moves out of Hamtramck always comes back," she said. "It's something about the community and the way people interact with each other. Your heart fills with joy when you see this happen."

(Ian Perrotta can be reached at ian@thehamtramckreview.com)



School district faces tough financial choices

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck's public schools may be heading into a worse financial crisis.

Superintendent Tom Niczay said it appears that the district lost over 150 students, which will result in a \$1 million budget cut in the coming year. That news came just as the state received notice that the federal government will give the state's public schools \$315 million in stimulus funds.

Hamtramck is in line to receive \$600,000, Niczay said, which is obviously not enough to offset the loss in student funding. The federal money is to be used to prevent teacher

layoffs.

Layoffs may have to happen anyway, a source told The Review. That's because the district had to pay out \$400,000 in an early staff retirement plan the state offered. Unfortunately, the state will not reimburse the district for its upfront cost to those who took advantage of the early retirement deal.

Our source, who asked not to be identified, said this sudden draining of money has left the district nearly broke and may force it to seek a \$1 million loan just to meet paydays.

Getting a loan may prove tricky since the district al-

ready borrowed \$2 million last year.

As a result of the recent turn of events, the district may be forced to take several actions. Just what might be included on the chopping block was not known at press time.

The School Board will likely have to make some hard decisions at its regular October meeting, or perhaps even convene before then in a special meeting.

Earlier this year the district adapted a five-year plan to eliminate a \$2.8 million budget deficit. It is not known how the current financial downfall will affect that plan.

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Belmont Bar: Sundays – Sunday Bloody (Mary) Sunday and movie night w/ TaitNucleus, \$3 mix your own Bloody Mary. No Cover. Mondays – Mademoiselle Monday featuring martini & manicure specials all night, w/ DJ Mike Alonso. No Cover. Tuesdays – Punk Fitness followed by DJ Spinny; \$1 PBR all night; No Cover to drink; Wednesdays – Rock and Roll Karaoke with The Millionaire. Over 80,000 songs to choose from! No cover; 10215 Jos. Campau (313) 871-1966 Free WIFI.

Capo Lounge: No Cover Charge. Tuesdays – Karaoke, Thursdays are Thirsty Thursdays Ladies Night live DJ; Dress to Impress. Fridays and Saturdays – Live DJs. Sunday

is SEXY SUNDAY live DJ 11625 Jos. Campau (313) 365-CAPO (2276).

Carbon Lounge: 11474 Joseph Campau.

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

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

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

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

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Motor City Sports Bar: Great burgers and beer – \$1 domestic beers every Tuesday, draft beer \$1 every day, \$2 well mixed drinks every day, best char-grilled burgers, hands-down put us to the test, karaoke every Thursday, 9122 Jos. Campau (313) 875-4710.

Painted Lady: Mondays – \$1 beer night w/ Todd. Tuesdays – B-movie Night. Wednesdays – Opium Den; Thursdays – Honky Tonk/Ladies Night, \$2 wells; 2930 Jacob; (313) 874-2991

Paycheck's Lounge: 2932 Caniff, (313) 874-0909 – Live music every weekend, cheap drinks, open all day, Johnny Starr hosts open mic night every Thursday, 8 p.m., \$2 cover.

Small's: Sundays - Nurse your weekend hangover with Dave and Melody, \$1 off everything. Acoustic performances on select nights. Mondays - Karaoke with Squid and Jared! Tuesday - Trivia Night! Game starts at 9 p.m. with tons of great prizes and cheap drinks; 10339 Conant, (313) 873-1117. Free WIFI.

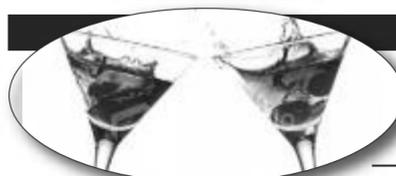
7 Brothers Bar: Hamtramck's hippest hangout for actors, 11831 Jos. Campau; (313) 365-6576.

Skipper's Hamtown: Hamtramck's newest neighborhood "almost dive" bar. Skipper's offers a wide selection of bottled beer as well as six non-alcoholic beverages. Stop by for a good drink and a great time!; 9735 Conant at Evaline.

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

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

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Toast of the Town

When it comes to good food and great times, Hamtramck has plenty to offer. In this recurring column, we'll take a look at the bars, restaurants and other events that can be found throughout the city.

By Ian Perrotta

Ironically enough, the first article in this series isn't about a bar in Hamtramck. It's about the 2-Way Inn, located just outside the city at 17897 Mt. Elliot.

The reason this bar is featured this week is that it's about to celebrate a milestone. Besides being one of the oldest bars in the area – and with a history dating back to 1876, maybe one of the oldest in the country – it's also one of the newest places to hang out on the first Friday of every month. Next Friday (Oct. 1) is the one-year anniversary of the monthly party.

It all began about this time last year, when Whiskey in the

Jar bartenders Aaron Krul and Anthony Ruacho stumbled into the 2-Way Inn. Although they didn't know anyone there, after discovering it they realized the bar had a nice atmosphere and was a pleasant place to drink. Knowing that their own customers would enjoy the place, they approached the owner of the bar with a proposition: give them one night a month to bartend in exchange for an increase in customers.

Fortunately for both parties, the deal worked out. After starting out slowly, the event began to get a reputation around town as being one to not miss. Since then, it has hosted bands, birthday parties and other special events. Moreover, the crowd has grown considerably in size and diversity. Thanks to some press from The Detroit News and the Metro Times, even the most regular patron is

bound to meet a stranger.

As previously mentioned, next week marks the one-year anniversary of First Fridays at the 2-Way Inn. To celebrate the occasion there will be musical acts performed by Erin Elvis and Rachel May, S.F.P and The Fresh Tones. Of course, there will also be great prices on drinks, tons of cool people, and – if someone is feeling generous (hint, hint) – cake.

"We thought it was a cool old bar and our friends would like the place, and now we are doing the one-year anniversary," says Krul. "I guess we were right ... for once."

Do you know of a cool bar, a great restaurant or just a nice place to hang out? If you have tips on special events – or just want to shine some light on your favorite spot – send a message to us at news@thehamtramckreview.com or call us at (313) 874-2100.

Coming Events

SEPT. 22, WED., noon – Daughter of Isabella Mystical Rose Circle 736 will hold a "September Card & Bunco Social," featuring door and table prizes, raffle and share the wealth. Admission is \$7 and includes a lunch, at the Queen of Apostles Act ivies Center, entrance on Harold St. Fenced parking.

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.

Tight Fittin' Jeans

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Review: Opinion Page

Auto theft unit is saved but what about the future?

Some fancy footwork, so to speak, was needed to keep Hamtramck's auto theft unit intact.

And it worked out alright this week, but the scramble to save the unit underscores a deeper financial crisis facing Hamtramck. Back in August, it looked like the city would have to disband the auto theft unit because it couldn't afford to kick in \$80,000 as part of a matching grant for two investigators.

A state insurance fund pays the other half of the salaries.

On Tuesday, police officials won back the grant, and City Manager Bill Cooper has figured out a

way to offset the city's cost.

With an auto theft rate of about 400 vehicles a year, it's critical that Hamtramck has two investigators dedicated solely to catching auto thieves. But the bigger concern is how can Hamtramck – and so many other communities – continue to scrap by as tax revenue continues to shrink while at the same time costs keep going up?

Besides those two cross-current revenue issues, Hamtramck is facing a \$3.3 million budget deficit thanks to a dispute with the City of Detroit over a tax revenue agreement regarding GM's Poletown plant.

Detroit Mayor Dave Bing's administration is withholding money from last year and this year while the dispute heads to court. In the meantime, Hamtramck has been forced to lay off city appointees and employees and the city could even face bankruptcy by next January.

The renewal of the auto theft unit is indeed good news. The bad news is that Hamtramck is facing uncertain – and possibly very shaky – financial times in the coming year. Losing the auto theft unit may seem like a small matter if things don't turn around.

Letters • Letters

Big media needs to pay closer attention to Hamtramck

I think that it is a shame that the big, over-priced newspapers don't cover Hamtramck in the way that they should.

Detroit gets tons of human-interest stories, and other stories, while the Detroit News and Detroit Free Press provide grossly inadequate coverage of our Hamtramck. There are so many good, positive stories and wonderful events here in Hamtramck. It's a good thing that we have the Hamtramck Review newspaper!

Recently, our local paper ran a wonderful story about a family that loves Dickinson East Elementary School, one of the very best schools in the Greater Hamtramck area. The heart-warming story was about the Dedvukaj family, a family proud of Hamtramck and very proud of Dickinson East Elementary. Joe and Linda Dedvukaj love the school dearly. They loved it when the hard-working Mr. Niczay ran the school. Years later, they still love it. I believe that they've come to love Mr. Maktari, the popular principal who now runs the school.

There are many reasons for them to love Dickinson East Elementary School. There are a lot of caring, experienced teachers, with tons of educational training, who work at the school. I know. I saw them at the school's open house last week.

There's also a lot of new technology in the school. There are new mininetbook computers for the fifth and sixth graders, NEO 2 keyboarding computers for the students, wireless Internet access for student research, computer labs, and interactive smartboards or whiteboards, some with advanced technology laptop projectors.

There's a new program run by Mrs. Dajani at the school. There's a writing program that's phenomenal and a quality reading program. State test results clearly show that a large number of students are finding great success at the school. Mr. Maktari could not be more proud of his students. He really wants students to start at his school, stay at his school, and succeed at his Hamtramck elementary school. There are a lot of reasons for parents to love the school and school district! Dickinson East is an exceptionally wonderful school!

It's sad that the Free Press and Detroit News don't visit our city to report on Hamtramck more often. There are so many human-interest stories here that people need to know about. The story about the Dedvukaj family is one wonderful Hamtramck human-interest story, and it's a good thing that the Hamtramck Review gets out the word about such stories.

Our tiny city has made a huge difference in the lives of so many people, so many Michigan citizens. Michigan residents need to know more about our city and more about the residents of our small, great city.

Brad Alan Neff
School Media Specialist
Hamtramck Public Schools

Hamtramck firefighters on pace for busy year

Last week, the Hamtramck Review reported that Hamtramck "dodged a bullet" while the Detroit Fire Department battled a serious rash of fires – some near Hamtramck.

With winds causing a serious potential for fire spread,

Continued on page 7

Odds & Ends

Helping hand ... We've been meaning to get the word out about this for the past couple of weeks: Hamtramck Detective Jackie Crachiola needs volunteers and donations to complete a mural she and a bunch of school kids are restoring at the Jos. Campau viaduct in the southend.

While money is always appreciated, she could use a large donation of paint to get the job done. If you can spare some time to help out or make a donation, give her a call at (313) 876-7800 and then press 2 for the Detective Bureau and extension 4 for Jackie.

Preserve our planet ... Here's another subject we've been behind on talking about. Way back in early August, Dick Kaleski of Preserve Our Parks sent us a letter updating his ef-

fort to get school kids involved in recycling.

He has had a collection box for the kids to deposit #2 recyclable plastics and through that collection has been able to turn them into plastic benches.

Only plastic containers with #2 on it can be used. Dick pointed out that plastics will outlive generations of us, lasting thousands of years.

Or as he said: "That which is buried in landfills



The program is still going strong, and several benches have been delivered. But here's a re-

will be there 1,000 years from now, causing archaeologists to wonder, "what were they thinking?"

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• Copy Editor: Ian Perrotta

This newspaper is not responsible for mistakes in advertising beyond the cost of the space involved.

Block Club Corner ...

First Thursdays, 4 Cs Neighborhood Watch (if you live or have a business between Carpenter, Conant, Caniff, and Campau), 7 p.m. Hamtramck Recreation Center, 1135 Charest, lower level

Fourth Thursdays, Southend Neighborhood Watch 6:30 p.m. in the People's Community Center on Joseph Campau and Danforth, for all residents and businesses south of Holbrook.

Second Mondays, Eastside Block Club (if you live or have a business East of Conant) 7 p.m. Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church, Activity Center, entrance on Harold Street

The Central Neighborhood Watch (Caniff, Conant, Holbrook, Campau) will soon set up regular meeting dates. For more information, go online to hamtramckCBC@gmail.com. Facebook: Hamtramck Central Block Club group page.

Second Wednesdays, 3 C7 Neighborhood Watch (if you live or have a business between Carpenter, Campau, Caniff, and I-75) People's community Services Senior Center on Caniff, across from the Public Library

The Hamtramck Housing Commission Neighborhood Watch is not meeting at this time. If you would like to help start these groups, call the Weed and Seed office at (313) 281-8150.

Third Wednesdays, Midtown Neighborhood Watch (if you live or have a business between Caniff, Campau, Holbrook and I-75) 6:30 p.m. in the Convent of St. Florian's Church, on Florian Street

Neighborhood Watch meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend. If additional information is needed contact the Weed and Seed office at (313) 281-8150.

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Street Life

Allow me to (re) introduce myself ...

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

By Walter Wasacz

Late last month, I was given the privilege of managing the editorial team at the web-based, Detroit-centric magazine Model D, a publication I've been writing and editing for since 2005.

I re-introduced myself – it seems in this business, if you've done it long enough, introductions become a part of the job description – in a short piece that I'll excerpt here. Why? Well, it gives you, Review readers, a chance to get to know me, and my focus, even better.

It also gives me a chance to re-enforce this: that part of my mission as a writer/editor continues to consider all things Hamtramck. I do it in Model D – along with other neighborhoods and business districts in Detroit – and will continue to do it here in Street Life. Read it for yourself below: I'm not going anywhere soon. We're in this thing together.

Here are a few key points from my piece. You can find it in its entirety at www.modeld-media.com

So where does the editorial future of Model D begin?

Humbly, it begins with yours truly, whose love affair with this fledgling webzine started the summer of its launch. That would be 2005, when I

began a contributing relationship with stories about Detroit's "global vibe," which still has traction because, well, it's authentic and true. Detroit is an international brand of power and influence, a city of innovation now in its fourth century. I'm still amazed when people don't get it. That message will be a sub-text for a lot of what we do rolling forward.

I see Detroit as a crucial part of the American nervous system, a live wire of endless opportunity and, for an editor, a place of rich content that can't be bought. I believe it. I live it. That's why I'm here.

I set my standards high and push the production envelope with vigor. But I also know it has to be fun, as I hope is revealed in the FilterD section I helped launch and have nurtured over the past three years. My title was editor at large, which meant I got a chance to do nearly everything. The best compliment I can receive from anyone is that the passing of the baton will be largely imperceptible. We worked as a strong team, and a strong team we will remain.

Our focus is on real place and real people: doers, makers, builders choosing Detroit for its assets, seeing the promise, cultivating creative energies and new economies, being here out of choice. Community engagement and participation in neighborhood life are more than just tags to me. That's



where the future begins. That's where we're headed.

Just a few more words about me and I'll disappear into the electronic ether and begin putting together this week's issue.

My career passions come together at the intersection of culture and community. Since 2004, I've written a music column for the Metro Times called "The Subterraneans," I'm also a staff writer for XLR8R in San Francisco and have contributed features and reviews to magazines in Berlin, London, New York and Los Angeles. All of that is possible, by the way, because I am based here. I found editors and publishers in media centers around the world to have a keen interest in our creative ecosystem. They never tire in how we roll.

In Hamtramck, where I live and work, I launched columns called "Eye on Culture", "Sidewalking" (both for the Citizen) and "Street Life" for The Review. In all cases, what I call the theater of the real – what's happening now to quicken the pulse, or advance the quality of community life – has been my subject.

At Model D, all my passions are given over. I am privileged to be your guide for what I believe could be a journey into the best years of our lives.

Trish Astrology

Aries (March 20-April 19): "The past is never dead," wrote William Faulkner. "It's not even past." You'd think our past was a zombie Aries, the way it keeps shuffling after us despite all efforts to outrun it. Stars say, it could be worse; we could have a past that doesn't care.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): "Preach the gospel at all times," said St. Francis of Assisi. "If necessary, use words." Our actions are our words this week Taurus, especially at home. What we want to know is, does this mean polishing off the last piece of chocolate cake is the best thank you we can give its baker?

Gemini (May 21-June 20): In A Room Of One's Own, Virginia Woolf famously proposed that a woman needs an allowance and space away from family responsibility in order to create. To which author Barbara Holland responds, "No Mrs. Woolf. A job, Mrs. Woolf." Either means of support or family matters impede the artist in us Gem. Before getting upset remember that Woolf was an artist with no responsibilities and she jumped into a river after filling her coat with rocks. So much for the wisdom of avoiding the weight of responsibility.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): "Home is that place that when you go there," writes poet Frost, "they have to take you in." Our present looks a lot like our past this week Cancer. As long as our future doesn't look like our past too, we'll be able to deal with it without getting dizzy.

Leo (July 22-Aug 23): Mythologist Edith Hamilton notes that all Greek words that mean boundless, indefinite, or unlim-

ited have a bad connotation. It's why ancient Greeks mistrusted their gods. We're mistrusting something big we've previously put faith in too this week Leo. Who knew that choosing the super-size option at the drive-thru wasn't always the best deal?

Virgo (Aug 23-Sept 22): "In order to live free and happily," writes Richard Bach, "you must sacrifice boredom. It is not," he adds, "always an easy sacrifice." We may not have to sacrifice boredom to gain happiness this week Virgo; boredom is likely to self-destruct on its own. What we want to know is, if boredom can be this dramatic, does this mean it wasn't really boring in the first place?

Libra (Sept 22-Oct 23): "The play is over friends," said Emperor Augustus as his last words, "Applaud." We've finished writing another chapter in the story of our life Libra. Instead of starting another one we're ready to move on to a whole new book. Now all we need are the irrelevant details, like title, plot, and supporting characters.

Scorpio (Oct 23-Nov 22): "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," begins A Tale of Two Cities. We feel like we've stumbled into Dickens' novel Scorpio. If good and bad news canceled each other out nothing would be happening this week. Instead we'll just have to juggle our happy face with our sad one and remind ourselves it beats being bored.

Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 21): "Never spend more for an acquisition," say the Ferengi, Star Trek's race of über-capitalist

aliens, "than you have to." We've been overestimating the price of happiness Sadge. Who knew that simply changing our perspective could change our happiness purchasing power? As long as we don't try to pay our electric bill with our new attitude instead of cash, bliss is ours.

Capricorn (Dec 21-Jan 19): "Some people," notes Morrie Brickman, "suffer in silence louder than others." He's describing someone we know Cappy. Partners are unhappy with our lot in life. Who knew identity crises were contagious?

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb 20): "We don't get angry because the glass is broken," observes Robina Cortin, "we get angry because we thought the glass would never break." If we've got habits we want to break the stars on our side this week Aquarius. In other life areas it's a good week to stick with plastic.

Pisces (Feb 19-March 20): "A relative of mine does not read my books," complains author Anneli Rufus, adding that the relative always buys her books, just never reads them. Letting go of expectations about how family should react to an act of creative expression is our job this week Pisces. Now that we're grown up, we didn't really expect mom to leave our finger painting on the fridge door forever, did we?

Astrologer Trish Marie first realized the sky is talking in 1996. It hasn't shut up since. She is based in SE Michigan. Find her on Facebook at Trish Marie Astrology.



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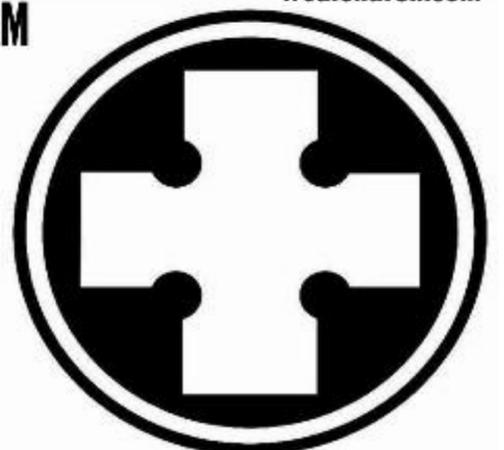
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Letters • Letters

Continued from page 5

the Hamtramck Firefighters were able to maintain a safe Hamtramck while responding to an above average 15 emergency runs that day – thankfully, nothing nearly as serious as Detroit's "fire storm."

The calls on that Sept. 7 included two vegetation fires and two calls for downed power lines. Those downed power lines on Jacob St. resulted in a garage fire that was quickly contained with minimal damage. All fires in Hamtramck that day were quickly extinguished due to the hard work and vigilance of your Hamtramck Firefighters.

The Detroit Fire Department did not call upon the Hamtramck Fire Department for mutual aid. With their resources spread thin and with a strong wind spreading fire very rapidly, the Detroit firefighters did a remarkable job that most would not recognize (it's worth noting that even with all those fires, there were no serious injuries or deaths).

With all that in mind, we'd

like to note that the Hamtramck Fire Department is on pace for an above average number of runs this year. We are estimating that there will be over 3,000 emergency runs in 2010 – much more than we've seen in 20-plus years and with fewer men than just 10 years ago.

Your firefighters work night and day, every day to serve and protect the city of Hamtramck.

**William Diamond
President, Hamtramck
Firefighters Association**

Firefighters stand corrected: they accepted concessions

In the Sept. 3, 2010 edition of The Hamtramck Review a statement was printed, saying "The police and fire unions have refused any concessions."

As a reminder, the Ham-

tramck Firefighters Association is the only city bargaining unit to have agreed to concessions.

One only has to read the Feb. 19, 2010 edition of The Hamtramck Review to see an article that announced the concession package we took. Those concessions included not taking a scheduled pay raise and eliminating Holiday Pay.

Within the last year, the Hamtramck Firefighters have signed a new contract that has saved the city money. Just a short few months after ratifying that 5-year deal, we again sat down with the city manager and agreed to a concession package that would save an additional \$90,000 (per The Hamtramck Review). Hamtramck Firefighters have made every effort to work with city management and we are still the only union to agree to concessions.

**William Diamond
President, Hamtramck
Firefighters Association**

City's 'Auto Row' is officially designated

By Ian Perrotta

Hamtramck's place in history was cemented last Friday (Sept. 17) with the dedication of a Wayside marker commemorating the "Automobile Row" corridor of Jos. Campau.

The marker, a plaque made from Digital High Pressure Laminate material, was built to stand up to the harsh conditions of an urban environment and is theft-proof and graffiti-resistant. Provided by the MotorCities National Heritage Program and paid for by a grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation, it was acquired by the Hamtramck Historical Commission (HHC), which had also helped with its design.

On the plaque, a brief summary of the road's history is given. Also included are photos of the street at



Members of the Hamtramck Historical Commission stand next to the new Wayside marker that commemorates the "Automobile Row" corridor of Jos. Campau.

its prime, as well as historical blurbs about significant parts of Automobile Row. Greg Kowalski, Chairman of the HHC, said he was impressed with the way the marker turned out.

"It's more than I expected," he said.

He also noted that while it was the fifth marker for

plenty of other places in the city that would be eligible for historic consideration.

"We have an opportunity to get even more markers," he said. "Everywhere we turn there is an opportunity for another marker."

(Ian Perrotta can be reached at ian@thehamtramckreview.com)

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2060 Norwalk, Hamtramck - "Portage Garage" - 3 bay auto repair facility, including the 2 family home at 2054 Norwalk. \$65,000 - New Price!

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2682 Evaline, Hamtramck - 2 BR, Basement, Needs Work \$20,000

8430 Superior - Centerline, Near 10 mile & Van Dyke. Brick home w/ 5 BR, LR, DR, Original Refinished Hardwood Floors, Full finished basement w/ summer kitchen, 2 1/2 car garage. 76' x 238' lot (.42 acres). \$20K in recent updates \$99,900 - New Price!

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Hamtown's movers and shakers...

By Alan Madeleine

Who he is:

Chris Schneider

is one of the founders of Hamtramck's artist collective, HATCH. Recently we caught up with Chris to find out what's going on with the group.

So, Chris -- as you may know, a couple of weeks ago we spoke with Sean Bieri, who's involved with HATCH too. I see from the "About" link on your website that you were one of the two co-founders of HATCH, along with Erik Tungate, and you date the group's inception to April of 2006. Tell us how you came to be in the position(s) you currently hold (President, Treasurer) -- did you have the typical "art school" background, or if not, what was your education? And refresh for us, too, (even though it's also on the website) a bit about HATCH as an entity; its original mission or purpose, and how it's grown to be what it is.

Schneider: Back in 2006, Erik was working for the city, and challenged me to create an organization for area artists. He said if I could, he would help us get a building to turn into an art center. Thus, HATCH was born. I found a group of around a dozen core members who have built HATCH into what it is today. Now we have around 50 members—artists, designers, writers, and those who simply appreciate the arts or are looking for inspiration. Our main goal is to pro-

vide a local network for artists, and help bridge the gap between what artists are doing and community awareness.

We currently own Hamtramck's former police station at 3456 Evaline. If all goes to plan, we will be putting a new roof on the building in early fall. Once the roof is fixed, we will be able to occupy the building and begin public events. The building will have a gallery, artist studios, a gift shop, a classroom, and a workspace that will include Detroit's only public photo darkroom.

As for myself, I grew up in Nebraska and taught high school in Florida for a number of years. I was essentially self-taught as an artist until I decided that I was more interested in my photography than my teaching. I somehow managed to get into Cranbrook Academy of Art, earned my MFA, and fell in love with this area.

About how many "members" does HATCH officially claim, if there is any official claiming? Is it an advantage to try to have as many members as possible, or are you trying to keep the group manageable smaller? Do you think of your membership as more homogeneous, or are they a motley crew from all over the map? And are you satisfied with what it is, or would you rather see it made up a bit differently?

Schneider: We currently have around 50 members, and they are definitely a mixed bag of folk. As an or-

ganization, we are stronger when we have more members and diversity, but we are strongest when many of those members are active in volunteering and organizing activities. We are fortunate to have a dedicated group that is tireless. At the same time, we are always looking and hoping to get new members who bring new ideas and energy.

There are two groups that I would love to see develop: the young artist and artists from the Middle Eastern community. Both would bring an exciting new dimension to the group.

How do you see the group, as a collective entity, evolving -- are you, for example, trying to secure (or have you already secured) non-profit status, perhaps; and if so, what's the process there for a group such as yours? If not -- how does the group fund itself, aside from the usual donations or minor charges for things like the Dr. Sketchy classes?

Schneider: We are officially a non-profit organization. Funding has been difficult. We apply for grants, but we also produce "HATCH swag" to sell at art festivals and on our website—things like postcard sets of member artwork, the "HATCH patch", buttons, T-shirts and the like.

We are also going to have a series of fundraisers this fall at Skippers and 2739 Edwin Gallery. We are still working out the details, but they are both coming up in the next couple of months.

You're working on converting the old police station into an "exhibition and studio space," according to your website. I'll assume you're familiar with, for example, the Russell Street complex, the old Atlas Building near Eastern Market, or perhaps some other live-in artist colonies that have, locally, gone before. What do you envision this space ultimately becoming? Do you anticipate people living here, as well as it being work space (for that matter, is it even zoned that way)? How far along are you in the process of converting the building, and what are your main challenges with the project?

Schneider: The old police station is a sturdy structure with a lot of potential. We plan to rent the entire second floor as studio space — 12 studios in all. It should create a rich creative little community of artists. The main floor will have a gallery where we will feature local and national artists. Since it isn't a commercial gallery, we will have the freedom to show whatever kind of art that interests us.

The main floor will also feature a gift shop where we will sell local arts and crafts, plus a classroom where we will host a wide variety of workshops for all interests and abilities. In the back we will have a large room for a workspace. Right now we have darkroom equipment, a kiln,



and a printing press.

We have put hundreds, perhaps thousands of hours cleaning up and restoring the building. Until we put a new roof on, though, we only do so much. We won a grant to pay for a new roof from Wayne County but have been waiting over a year to receive it.

The funds have just been made available to us, so we are working on getting it done at last! Then we will just have the small matters of fixing the plumbing, wiring and windows before we put the finishing touches in the development of the building. We hope to have the building open to the public for events before the new year, although the projects we want to do on the building will probably take a full year to complete. Right now we have lofty goals of implementing sustainable technology so our place can be an example to the community of "living green."

Say I'm interested in becoming a part of HATCH.

What opportunities are there for the uninitiated; what would you recommend someone do first to check the group out -- attend a meeting, bring in some of their work, do a Dr. Sketchy? Do you lean on people to join your group, or don't you care if some folks prefer to remain on the fringes, as some artists sometimes do? And lastly: It's five years in the future. Is HATCH still around? Are you, as its head honcho? Does it

take on a life of its own, and go trampling through Hamtramck like some sort of hand-tinted Godzilla? Will we have to shoot her down someday?

Schneider: It is easy to get involved in HATCH. Anyone can become a member. All you have to do is fill out a membership form and pay our annual dues of \$30 (\$20 for students). Forms can be found at www.hatchart.org.

Otherwise, I recommend attending one of our events or activities. We have regular gallery openings and meetings at Café 1923, monthly Dr. Sketchy figure drawing sessions, gallery crawls, tents at area art festivals, and we will be involved in Art Detroit Now on Oct. 2. We will have a show at Café 1923 and a space in the Russell Industrial Complex.

As for the future of HATCH? I believe that once the building is open for business, HATCH will change. I am hop-

Continued on page 10

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Hamtramck, 11638 Nagel, 2 Br. upper, \$474/month, 313-438-3438. 10/1

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Metro news ...

It's said that whatever happens to Detroit, so goes Hamtramck. If you were to rely solely on the local mainstream media, you'd think Detroit is no more than a crime-infested wasteland. Well, we're here to say that isn't so. Our friends over at modeldmedia.com and metromode.com have been reporting on fascinating development projects for the past few years.

With their permission, here is a round-up of their reports from the past week:

Is there a Detroit block with more food and drink options than Woodward between Larned and Congress? From south to north, there's Motor City Wine, Foran's Deluxe Diner, Grand Trunk Pub, Bangkok Crossing and Vine Wine Bar.

Now, in the First National Building space that briefly was home to Small

Plates To Go, Zef's has opened a second location. The restaurant seats about 30 and also offers carry-out. It's open 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call (313) 962-2077.

The Riverfront Terminus of the Conner Creek Greenway is currently being built. This segment follows Clairpointe from Jefferson south to Maheras Gentry Park and includes bike lanes and landscaping along Clairpointe and a new trail and land-

scaping on the west side of the park. Construction is slated to be complete by end of October.

This summer, another segment of the greenway, one mile of bike lanes along St. Jean between Jefferson and Mack, was completed. The next stretch will run alongside Mt. Olivet Cemetery on Conner. The entire trail system is slated to be complete in 2013.

Writer: Kelli B. Kavanaugh

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Controversial Driver's Act heading for an exit

By Ian Perrotta

Thanks to the effort of State Representatives – including our district's own Bert Johnson (D-Detroit) – the highly detested Driver's Responsibility Act is one step closer to being reformed.

Last Wednesday (Sept. 15) the Michigan House of Representatives passed HB 4098, a bill that would eliminate nearly all costs associated with the driver's responsibility fee. However,

finances and fees associated with more severe driving offenses like drunk driving will remain.

The bill was introduced by Johnson, who has said that one of the biggest problems with the fee was its devastating effect on drivers who are unable to afford insurance and are consequently fined when they are pulled over. In a press release announcing the passage of the bill, Johnson was quoted as saying that the current law is

tantamount to a "debtor's prison" because of the way it compounds a person's financial woes after they begin to fall behind on their bills.

"Sooner or later, the person is caught driving without insurance and a driver's responsibility fee is assessed on top of the tickets they already owe and on top of the other bills they cannot afford to pay," he said.

In order to be made into law, the bill now heads to

the State Senate. If the vote passes there it will take effect on Jan. 1, 2012.

"Eliminating the driver's responsibility fee has been one of my top priorities," said Johnson. "I'm happy to have delivered on this promise and look forward to swift passage by the State Senate."

(Ian Perrotta can be reached at ian@thehamtramckreview.com)

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Movers & Shakers

Continued from page 8

ing it becomes an important part of the Detroit art scene, making art and artists more visible and vital to the regeneration of this whole metro area. And, hopefully nobody has to get shot in the process.

Thanks for your time, Chris. Feel free to take a line or two to plug anything you want to, HATCH or otherwise ...

Schneider: www.hatchart.org. Join our e-mail list to keep up with what we are doing — simply send a request to schneider@hatchart.org. We have something to do pretty much every weekend! Go see the work of Sean Bieri at Café 1923 — he is a fantastic cartoonist and illustrator. On Oct. 9 we will have an opening for our next artist, Mary Iverson.

Gardener's Corner ...

By Kathleen Wojcinski

This is that weird space between the end of summer and beginning of fall.

Don't be in too much of a hurry to pull out those tomatoes. There's still a bit of a growing season left for them. Fried green tomatoes are delicious. Cherry and grape tomatoes can be

brought inside, stem and all, after the first real frost.

Hang them near a window and you'll get "reds" for a couple of more weeks.

Cool-weather loving greens are coming into their own. Most flowers are still showing off since the insects are leaving them alone. They still need water-

ing, however. If you pinch off the dry seed tips, you should be getting your second or third blooming.

Garden centers sell black and orange petunias and other hybrids resilient to cold weather, so keep coloring your garden well into October.



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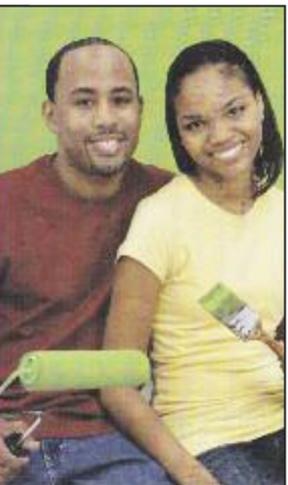
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