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# The Review

Hamtramck

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— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

## A shopping trip that's worth every penny

By Ian Perrotta

The Assistance League of Southeastern Michigan is at it again.

Last year, the non-profit organization out of Rochester donated six \$1,000 mini-grants to teachers in the Hamtramck Public Schools system. And just yesterday they were at Dickinson East Elementary School distributing new winter wardrobes to about 265 students.

As part of the Assistance League's "Operation School Bell" program, members and volunteers set up a "store" in the school's gym — complete with clothing racks, employees and a checkout area — and each child was given an opportunity to "shop" for free with an Assistance League member.

The children, kindergartners through sixth-graders, were selected by the school's social workers. Each kid was allowed to pick out a new winter coat, a hat, gloves, underwear, socks,

two tops, jeans, a book, a hygiene kit and a gift card for shoes. And to top it off, everything was stuffed in a new duffel bag.

To pay for the event, the Assistance League used money raised in their second-hand clothing store. According to Betty Zych, the Vice President of Communications for the organization, each child's wardrobe averages out to a cost of about \$75. A donation of two trucks from Rochester Mini Storage allowed for the transportation of all the goods.

"The kids are so excited," said Zych. "They love being able to pick out what they want. Some of them have never had new clothes."

**The Assistance League will be holding a fundraiser on Thursday, Nov. 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Palazzo Grande in Shelby Township. For more information log on to [www.semich.assistance-league.org](http://www.semich.assistance-league.org).**



## Hamtramck finally gets an answer

By Charles Sercombe

After waiting months for an audit report from Detroit officials about a long-simmering dispute over shared tax revenues from GM's Poletown plant, Hamtramck finally got an answer.

But city officials had to read about it in a Detroit Free Press story.

Go figure.

A few weeks ago, Hamtramck filed a lawsuit against Detroit, saying it was improperly holding back \$2 million in tax revenue. Hamtramck officials had been meeting with Detroit officials to straighten out the matter but those talks never went anywhere.

Hamtramck City Manager Bill Cooper said Detroit officials were generally uncooperative and failed to produce a promised audit. Well, Detroit officials finally produced — or at least referenced — an audit in its answer to Hamtramck's lawsuit, saying Detroit overpaid Hamtramck \$7.1 million.

Cooper said that's hogwash and that Detroit has yet to give Hamtramck a copy of the audit.

"I find it interesting they (Detroit officials) are basing their claim on an audit they told us is not done," Cooper said.

Not only does Cooper question the audit's actual existence, he said no matter what, "We totally disagree that they overpaid us."

Cooper has warned that without the \$2 million he says is owed, Hamtramck will be broke come this January and will likely face a state takeover. In the meantime, Cooper said he is withholding water and sewer service payments to Detroit until the matter is resolved.

Cooper added that he will file a Freedom of Information Act request to get a copy of Detroit's audit.

"When we get it, we will go over it with a fine-toothed comb," Cooper said.



## Quick Hits

**Hamtramck's one and only artist collective HATCH has a big wish list for getting its art space up and running.**

The group has taken ownership of Hamtramck's former police station, a classic two-story brick building that needs an awful lot of tender-loving care. On the top of that wish list is a major repair to the roof — yes, the roof — which we all know can run into thousands of dollars.

To raise a little dough and a roof, HATCH is throwing a fundraiser this Saturday (Oct. 9) at Skipper's Hamtown bar, located at 9735 Conant. There will be a silent art auction, live music, drinks, free food, prizes and who knows what else.

It all starts at 7 p.m. and carries on until midnight, but we won't be surprised if the party goes on 'til closing.

## This week in history

• President Franklin Roosevelt was in town in 1936 to officially dedicate Keyworth Stadium.

• Speaking of presidents visiting here, in 1958 President Truman walked down Jos. Campau.

• In 1921, Hamtramckans voted to incorporate what was then a village into a city. Hamtramck has been on a roll ever since.

Source: Hamtramck Historical Commission

## Developer wins tax credit for ambitious project

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck's tallest building has leaped yet another hurdle toward a major makeover.

Mark Hausner, the owner of the four-story building on Jos. Campau and Belmont, was granted tax credits worth \$116,000 through the Hamtramck Brownfield Redevelopment Authority to help offset the cost of redevelopment.

The money isn't directly given to Hausner but instead is skimmed off taxes collected from the future increase in the property's

value.

The project has been in the talking/planning stage for the past couple of years. Hausner plans a \$1.4 million renovation that includes "Flavor" restaurant on the ground floor, office space on the second floor and high-end rental lofts on the upper two stories.

Hausner will also be able to apply for a special grant for building owners who want to upgrade or create new apartments in upper floors. He could receive up to \$30,000 from that special rehab deal.

**Continued on page 2**



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## Developer wins tax credit for ambitious project

Continued from front page

Hamtramck Community & Economic Development Director Jason Friedmann said the project has been scaled back from previous plans, which included demolishing two houses behind the building to make way for a parking deck.

Renovation of the building could start this March. "Flavor" is a soul food-themed restaurant being developed by Hamtramck School Board President Titus Walters. Fried-

mann said the restaurant is scheduled to be open in January or February.

The front of the restaurant will be redesigned thanks to a façade improvement grant from the city's Downtown Development Authority.

Hausner, who sits on the Hamtramck DDA, could not be reached for comment. Friedmann said Hausner is financing the renovation through private investors.



## 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

You've probably driven by and checked out the young, good-looking crowd standing in the pulsating lights outside of 88th Avenue, but have you ever been inside? If not, it's time get your priorities straight - 88th Avenue is one happening place, and it's only getting better.

For anyone who hasn't been inside 88th Avenue, located on Conant just south of Caniff, you're definitely missing out. As a former restaurant, the establishment's layout is very inviting and features a large seating area on one side that complements the long bar on the other. A DJ booth and spacious dance floor add to the energetic atmosphere, and an open, artistically spray-painted outdoor seating area - complete with a grill that kicks out some killer kielbasa - finishes off the building.

Over the last few months, 88th Avenue has undergone some changes thanks to Arthur Stopinski, its new events manager. Stopinski has been working to revitalize the business by hosting theme nights, and judging by the recent "Rave Night" it seems to be working. On that particular night, the bar was transformed into a quintessential rave scene, complete with laser lights, techno music and glow sticks. The well-attended event was a hit with patrons and will likely be held again.

In the more immediate future, 88th Avenue will be hosting two Halloween-inspired events as a lead up to the holiday on the 31st. The first is Angel's Night and is happening next Saturday (Oct. 16). As the name suggests, it's an angel-themed night that encourages patrons to either dress in white or just come in and show off their heavenly bodies. DJ Scooter will be mixing the music, and anyone dressed as an angel will get in free. For the rest of the crowd it's \$7 for people over 18 and just \$5 for those over 21.

The following Saturday (Oct. 23) is part two of the "Pre-Halloween Double Hitter," only this time it's Devil's Night. The main difference is that DJ WILDZ will be spinning the tunes and people will be dressed either as devils or just in red and black. The rest - good drinks and great times - will be the same. And as is

the case in Angel's Night, anyone who comes dressed as a devil/temptress will get in free. For everyone else, as the fliers say, it's "\$7 to come and just \$5 to swallow."

With a good level of success already under his belt, Stopinski says he'd like to keep the momentum going by throwing even more events, especially ones that other places either haven't tried or haven't thought of. He's even

88th Avenue, every month I'll try to have at least one or two events with theme-specific drinks. And I'll have my shot girls dressed to impress."

Since there's more to this column than just bar talk, it's only appropriate to mention a big change coming to one of Hamtramck's favorite restaurants. Maria's Comida - known as much for its friendly staff as it is for its chips and



begun to branch out to other bars in Hamtramck, and as a part of a collaborative effort with AV Entertainment and a few others, he'll be hosting a monthly event every Sunday at Mars Bar called Fiasco. The first Fiasco will be held on Oct. 17, and if you attend you can expect a creative and eclectic collaboration of artists and promoters that Stopinski says will result in a Sunday event like no other.

"Fiasco is a way to unwind and relax in a laid-back atmosphere with live entertainment by DJs and performance troupes," he says. "But at

salsa - will be combining Head Chef Alan Pronko's knowledge of Asian cuisine with its current Mexican offerings to create a new "Mex-Asian" menu that debuts Monday (Oct. 11).

We'll have a lot more to say about that next week ... Until then, Cheers!

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 [news@thehamtramck-review.com](mailto:news@thehamtramck-review.com) or call us at (313) 874-2100.

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## This week at the library...

**ESL Class for Beginners** - Saturday, October 9 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, October 9 at noon. All children are invited to children's storytime at the library.

**Computer Classes for Beginners** - Tuesday, October 12 at 11:30 a.m. Basic instructions on computer use for beginners will be held on Tuesdays. Number of participants is limited to available computers.

**Reading and Conversation for ESL Students** - Tuesday, October 12 at 3:00 p.m. Jide Aje is the instructor for reading and conversation ESL classes.

**Math Club Meeting** - Tuesday, October 12 at 4 p.m. Mr. Nuo is the instructor for the math club and math tutoring.

**Movie Wednesday** - Wednesday, October 13 at 3:30 p.m. Every Wednesday is movie day at the library. Come and enjoy our feature presentation, which includes popcorn and snacks.

**Computer Classes for Intermediate Users** - Thursday, October 14 at 11:30 a.m. Adults with basic computer skills can enhance their computer literacy each Thursday at the library. Number of participants is limited to available computers.

**Jeopardy at the Library** - Thursday October 14 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, October 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, October 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.

**92nd Anniversary Library Dinner** - Thursday, Nov. 11 at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to the Annual Library Dinner at the PNA Banquet Hall on Conant & Belmont. During the program, new members will be inducted into the Library Hall of Honor. Tickets are available at the Library. The event is organized by the Friends of Hamtramck Public Library.

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

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

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# Second Front Page

## City's youth encouraged to take part in world-wide clean-up

By Ian Perrotta

This weekend might be your best last chance to do some volunteer work this year – there's a clean-up on Saturday (Oct. 9) at the New Leaf Garden on St. Aubin.

The event begins at 10:30 a.m. at Bridge Academy, where there will be a short informational meeting.

Sponsored by the Muslim American Society's youth division, the clean-up is part of a larger effort led by 350.org, which is an international campaign working to build a movement that unites the world around solutions to the climate crisis.

On Sunday (Oct. 10), 350.org has coordinated a world-wide clean-up that involves over 150 countries hosting thousands of individual events.

Hamtramck's clean-up effort was organized by local resident Sharmin Hakim and

her friends Ashya Jamali and Khadigah Alasry.

Hakim, a 2008 Hamtramck High School graduate and current student at Wayne State University, says she's conducting the event as a way for the city's young people to have an opportunity to do volunteer work that has an immediate impact. As a volunteer herself – among her other duties she is the Weed and Seed Secretary and also sits on its board – Hakim says that there is a lot to be gained by giving back to the community.

"I love volunteering, and I really want the kids in Hamtramck to see that they too can participate and make a difference," says Hakim. "The clean-up is a project they can enjoy and relate to, and it will also be an opportunity to show that volunteering can be fun."

## Town Hall meeting to discuss reducing crime

Keep Wednesday, Oct. 20 open on your calendar if you would like to learn more about neighborhood safety tips and how to join a block club.

Hamtramck's federally funded "Weed & Seed" program is holding a town hall meeting on that date at 6:30 p.m. in the Hamtramck Community Center (next to Hamtramck High School).

The evening will feature discussions on a wide variety of topics, including home and personal safety, neighborhood watches, block clubs and much more. You can also get a free vehicle identification number etched on your car window by Hamtramck's Auto Theft unit (from 3-6 p.m. at the high school).

Drinks and snacks will also be offered. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the event ends at 9 p.m. Need more

information? Call Sgt. Wally Tripp at (313) 876-7833.

And speaking of Weed & Seed, the group needs to raise money to purchase insurance coverage. So, the parent organization of Weed & Seed, the Hamtramck Community Initiative, will hold a fundraiser on Oct. 28 at the Hamtramck Gates of Columbus Hall (9632 Conant).

Admission is \$20, which includes food and drinks and a brief presentation about the organization. The HCI's goals are to reduce violence, auto theft and crime in general.

Donations are tax deductible.

**Doors open at 5 p.m. and things wind up at 9 p.m. For more information call (313) 281-8150 or (313) 876-7833.**

## 'Harvest Fest' will offer something for everyone plus a whole lot of fun

By Ian Perrotta

It's just a week away – the first (of hopefully many) Hamtramck Harvest Fest.

For anyone who hasn't heard, with the success of this year's Labor Day Festival its organizers were inspired to recreate their magic with an Oktoberfest-like event. After working behind the scenes for the last several weeks, they're ready for next weekend's (Oct. 16 and 17) party.

The event will be held in the municipal lot between Polish Village Café and Polonia Restaurant and will run from noon to 10 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 8 p.m. on Sunday. It's a family-friendly event and the cost is just \$5 for adults, \$2 for kids and free for anyone 10 and

under.

On the lineup for the weekend are a number of great bands as well as some of the best food and drinks around. You'll be able to wash down your schnitzel and sauerkraut with authentic German and Polish Beer as well as Michigan-made wine, and if you're still hungry after that there will be hot pretzels, pumpkin pie and caramel apples. For the non-drinkers, there will be spiced cider and coffee from Café 1923.

During the Harvest Fest, you can take a Historic Hamtramck Volksmarch Walking Tour with Historical Commission Chairman Greg Kowalski on both Saturday and Sunday. There will also be a hayride throughout the city

on both days. If you'd rather kick back and relax, you can watch the weekend's football games projected on the side of Polonia Restaurant, or peruse the vendors from Eastern Market that will be selling pumpkins, cornstalks and chrysanthemums. And for the kids, there will be face painting and games.

Of course, it wouldn't be a Hamtramck party without some music, and the Harvest Fest is no exception. In addition to performances by dance troupes on both days, there will be the polka music from Duane Malinowski and Eddie Blazonczyk & the Versatones as well as rock and roll by local favorites the Howling Diablos, the Polish Muslims and Danny D.

And gals – get this – during

Danny D's performance of "Hot Legs" there will be a "hot legs" competition featuring men in Lederhosen.

To kick the whole event off, the festival will adopt the German Oktoberfest's tradition of having the mayor tap the first keg. Mayor Karen Majewski will do the honor at noon on Saturday. Later that day radio station 93.1 Doug FM will be broadcasting live from 5 to 7 p.m.

"If you didn't get a chance to make it to the Labor Day Festival, this is the last chance of the year to celebrate Hamtown-style," says Kathleen Bittner, a co-organizer of the festival. "Like they say, there ain't no party like a Hamtown party!"

## He's a long-shot but willing to bet he'll beat the odds

By Charles Sercombe

Conventional wisdom says that whoever is the Democratic Party candidate for State Rep. will win in the Nov. 2 election hands-down.

Well, Hamtramck resident Muhammad Alim insists that's about to change. Alim is running as an independent on the November ballot, and says although he identifies himself as one who votes along Democratic lines, the past Democratic office holders have failed to deliver.

"They haven't done anything," he said.

Alim is the only Hamtramck candidate appearing on the ballot. Several Hamtramck residents ran as Democratic challengers in the August Primary Election but none of them got close to the winner, John Olumba – at least when you look at the district-wide votes.

The 46-year-old candidate is basing his hopes on the 991 voters who signed his petition

to get on the November ballot. Alim is a manager at the Greektown Casino and said that, although he has never held elected office, his experience



**State Rep. candidate Muhammad Alim is the only Hamtramck candidate on November's ballot. He is running as an independent.**

with a cross-section of people at the casino and his empathy for the downtrodden make him an ideal candidate. "I see so many things that

are not right," he said of the struggles many here in Hamtramck face – particularly the low-income who face daily obstacles in finding out where to get financial assistance, food stamps and immigration issues resolved.

Alim came from Bangladesh in 1991 to Atlantic City where he had family and a lead on a casino job. He was 19 years old then and didn't know a lick of English. He still struggles with English but he has managed to climb the management ladder and eventually accepted a job in Detroit's Greektown Casino in 2001.

Alim is part of the growing influence and presence of Bangladeshi-American voters and candidates. Until the last election in Hamtramck, there was only one Bangladeshi city councilmember. Now there are three, and the Bangladeshi community is poised to vote in more candi-

Continued on page 10

# Bar Hopping

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

**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.

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**Jeans:** As they say, characters are always 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.

**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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# City's dumping site sends out a confusing message

By Charles Sercombe

Call it a mixed message. A so-called non-dumping site on the southend has become a dumping site for the city.

Confused? You can only imagine what passersby think when they see part of Denton St. that has become a dumping ground for the city despite numerous signs giving this warning:

City Property  
No Trespassing  
No Parking  
No Dumping  
Violators will be Ticketed

Behind those ominous signs, however, is an open lot with piles of tree limbs and other debris along with two giant dumpsters.

So what gives? Martin Ladd, the Director of Public Services, concedes it's a confusing message, but he stressed that it is city property and the city can do what it wants to do there. And that site has become a dumping ground for the city until another site that can't be seen from the street is found.

"I'm limited in land right now," Martin said.

Martin said because the site is so accessible, "folks have come down to use it." However, he warned, anyone caught dumping there will be ticketed.

The site will likely undergo a cleanup in the coming months because Hanley International Academy plans to build a new school down the

street at the former state Department of Human Services building.

"With the school coming we need to find a new location," Ladd said.



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# Review: Opinion Page

## Don't punish the players who play by the rules

While we don't want to see this nipped in the bud, there is legitimate concern that a proposal to treat resale shops like pawn shops is too restrictive.

City Councilmember Cathie Gordon is right to be concerned that there have been reports that one or two local resale shops are dealing in stolen goods. But should the legitimate resale shops have to suffer through daily paperwork because of the bad behavior of a couple stores?

We think it's better to have police investigate the cases of stolen goods

rather than penalize the shops that play by the rules.

But we also encourage further discussion of this proposal just to see if there might be a middle ground on this subject.

The bigger question this issue raises is just what is the Police Department doing with the pawnshops that operate here? Are the pawnshops reporting who sold them items and do the pawnshops hold onto the items they take in to see if they were reported stolen?

This writer can speak from experience when his

Hamtramck flat was broken into and a number of cameras were stolen.

The items and their serial numbers were reported immediately but the only help from the Police Department was advice to check out a pawn shop located on Jefferson Ave. in Detroit to see if the cameras were there.

This was several years ago and we hope police investigations into stolen goods has ramped up since then. It's pointless to adopt laws that aren't going to be enforced in the first place.



## Letter from the Publisher

By John Ulaj

### Having a competitive edge for the 21st Century

Is Hamtramck prepared for the 21st Century?

The talk around town is of city promotion, festivals, and economic development planning, all of which are much needed for our city. If you look around the greater metropolitan area, especially in Oakland County, you will notice many communities hold at least five festivals annually. These communities each understand the effective power of marketing, which is something that should not go unnoticed by our own City Council.

The City Council inundates us with negativity concerning our financial picture, but they continually fail to address basic business fundamentals, including implementing a marketing plan.

The community has grown increasingly tired of all the whining, and action must be taken immediately to start the engine going, instead (for example) of harping on the two local young women, Rachael Srodek and Kathleen Bittner, who effectively helped save the Labor Day Festival in this town. These two women have had to endure criticism from some corners over the way that the festival was handled, particularly all the bally-

hoo over the city's firemen being denied a special booth rate, as had happened in years past.

These two have in fact done an outstanding job. Hamtramck should be embracing their ideals, and standing behind all the younger folks who want to see this city continue to succeed — especially when it's technically their futures on the line.

Simply stated, we have to realize that the way things were done in the past cannot always work in today's business world. I am constantly amazed when I see some corporations — especially the really successful ones — “going for the kill” as they try to capture more than their “fair market shares.” As a civic entity, we could do with a little more of this fighting spirit.

You see, Hamtramck is no different from any corporation, and every successful corporate entity has a viable, well-thought-out and comprehensive plan for their future. Effective marketing, in particular, is a necessity; for municipalities, activities like holding festivals become essential for generating revenue, both for themselves and their local

businesses as well, and they help to give a city its own uniquely, “branded” identity.

These unique identities inevitably lead to financial success. Whether a corporation is running a temporary deficit, or making a profit, the smart ones adhere to a well-considered marketing plan. They may make changes or adaptations, but they are constantly marketing their products, services, or unique shops, restaurants, etc. Without marketing, there is little ability to generate, or even preserve, revenue.

Why can't this city get their act together?

Why is it that we seem to keep going around in circles, doing the same things over and over? The old saying goes, that the definition of insanity is “doing the same things over and over again, but expecting different results”?

Perhaps we suffer from a shared nostalgia. Well, I feel the answer is that we keep electing people who lack the financial background and education to help propel us through the new century. We have to become serious, and start to take better advantage

Continued on page 6

## Odds & Ends

**Rally ...** The Bangladeshi-American Democratic Caucus will host two very special guests this Saturday (Oct. 9) at Aladdin Restaurant. Congressman John Conyers and State Sen. Hansen Clark will be on hand to meet the public and talk about issues.

Clark is most likely to be voted into Congress this November, having beat out Carolyn Cheeks-Kilpatrick in the primary.

The rally goes from 5 to 8 p.m., and Aladdin is located at Commor and Conant.

**Reminder ...** It's that time of the month again. On Saturday (Oct. 9), recycling bins will be set and waiting for recyclers at the city parking lot at Caniff and McDougall, starting at 9a.m.

**Enrolling ...** The city's Head Start program for kids 3 to 5 years old is now accepting students. Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency offers full and half-day classes, which also includes nutritious meals and snacks every day.

There are income requirements, so call for information at (313) 865-4631, extension 222, 223 or 224. The center, located in Hamtramck, also offers special services for kids with disabilities and special needs.

**Whoa! ...** And we don't mean that in a good way. Recent media reports say that our neighbor to the immediate west, Highland Park, has reached yet another low. As if that struggling city hasn't had it bad enough in recent years, things are about to get worse.

The city is being forced to lay off six police officers because of some unexplained “accounting error.”

To make up for that drastic cut, the city's mayor is recruiting volunteers to patrol the city and carry police radios to report problems. Talk about pathetic.

**Summer break ...** We're not sure what was behind the lack of monthly meetings for the Recreation Commission

this summer. The commission hasn't been able to get enough members to show up to hold an official meeting since June.

The next scheduled meeting is Oct. 27, 6 p.m., at the High School Community Center.

**Slump ...** And for some depressing economic news, as if there isn't enough going around these days. We recently ran across a column by Northwestern economist Robert Gordon who says the U.S. will probably face very slow economic growth not just for the next couple of years but for decades.

Decades, people, decades. Why so?

It's those darn Baby Boomer who will very soon begin to retire and tap into their Social Security payments. For sure they earned it, but when millions of Boomers aren't contributing to the national coffers, that's money going out, not in.

From Boom to Bust, eh?

The Hamtramck Review Published every Friday

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Phone: 313-874-2100 Fax: 313-874-2101

www.hamtramckreview.com • email news@thehamtramckreview.com

Editor/Publisher: John Ulaj • Editor: Charles Sercombe • Copy Editor: Ian Perrotta

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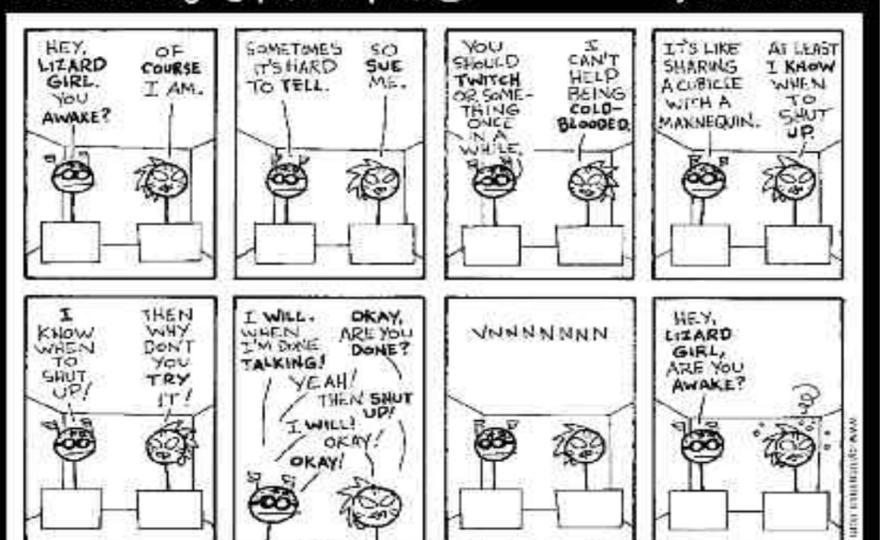
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## Block Club Corner ...

**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

**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

**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

**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

**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. **The Central Neighborhood Watch** (Caniff, Conant, Holbrook, Campau) will meet the first Wednesday of each month, starting Oct. 6, at Skipper's Bar, located at 9735 Conant at Evaline. Also there will be a neighborhood cleanup project on Sunday, Oct. 10. For more information, go online to hamtramckCBC@gmail.com. Facebook: Hamtramck Central Block Club group page.

**The Hamtramck Housing Commission Neighborhood Watch** is now called the W75 and it meets the second Wednesday of every month at 12025 Dequindre (housing commission activities center) at 1:30 pm.

**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.**

**For more information about Hamtramck's network of block clubs, go online to: www.hamtramckblockclubs.com**

# crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13				14		15				16				
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64						65				66				
67						68					69			

## Across

- 1 Ramirez of tennis
- 5 Fishhook feature
- 9 Bewail
- 13 Hiss in history
- 15 Mideast pooh-bah
- 16 Analogy words
- 17 Mediterranean island
- 18 N in NB
- 19 Use a dagger
- 20 Geometrical solid
- 21 Male ancestor
- 23 Stocking stuffers
- 25 Particular
- 26 \_\_\_ longue
- 29 Wild Asian dog
- 31 "To Kill a Mockingbird" author
- 33 Actor Silvers
- 37 Palindromic woman's name
- 38 Not so big
- 41 Dos Passos trilogy
- 42 Shoe part
- 44 Appeased
- 46 Tears
- 49 Ate in a hurry
- 50 Dress part
- 53 Greek b
- 54 Pleasing

- 57 Dizzying pictures
- 61 Slithered
- 62 Dirty
- 63 Pep pill
- 64 "\_\_\_ Man" (Estevez film)
- 65 Israeli carrier
- 66 Paris bisector
- 67 Org.
- 68 Ditto
- 69 Hourly fee, e.g.

## Down

- 1 Accessway
- 2 Winglike
- 3 Wrinkly fruit
- 4 Reveal by accident
- 5 Hair style
- 6 Love, to Livy
- 7 Beatles' meter maid
- 8 "Viva Zapata!" star
- 9 Faux pas
- 10 Port of ancient Rome
- 11 Video game name
- 12 Norwegian prize giver
- 14 Name of 11 rulers of ancient Egypt
- 22 PC key
- 24 Microbe
- 26 Tobacco mouthful
- 27 Possess
- 28 Kazakh-Uzbek sea
- 29 Birthplace of Artemis and Apollo
- 30 High water alternative
- 32 Feeble
- 34 Parisian octet
- 35 Words of comprehension
- 36 "This Gun For Hire" star
- 39 Hamburg's river
- 40 Rowdy
- 43 Checked for fit
- 45 Charleston dancer
- 47 Top of a suit
- 48 Terminates
- 50 Iraqi port
- 51 Eyes amorously
- 52 Nerds
- 53 Ball girl
- 55 Weapon swung by a gaucho
- 56 Irish writer O'Flaherty
- 58 Samoan seaport
- 59 Cost of occupation
- 60 Leaves home?

## PUZZLE SOLUTION on page 10

# Street Life



## Having a wild, wild weekend in Hamtown

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

### By Walter Wasacz

There is no shortage of smart art and leftfield musical happenings and political rantings in Hamtramck this weekend, that's for sure. Last weekend, the huge Art Detroit Now network of gallery and museum exhibitions crawled across the metro area, touching down in several local creative spaces. This week, Hamtramck and adjacent north Detroit and Poletown locations will be hosting a smaller crawl. But one

penter, south of Davison, west of Conant, Detroit) will open their doors from 1-6 p.m. Many are within walking or biking distance - we're plotting out the distance between these places on our bikes and will have some google maps to share in a future column - one of Hamtramck's greatest assets.

There is a near-perfect marriage here of art, culture and walkability. Add the accessibility to good food options and that adds up to a nice foundation for quality urban living.

After the crawl, get something to eat and then head



that should be big fun all the same.

During the afternoon of Oct. 9, Popp's Packing (12138 St. Aubin), Public Pool (3009 Caniff), 2739 Edwin, ( 2739 Edwin); Hatch: a Hamtramck Art Collective at Cafe 1923, 2287 Holbrook, all in Hamtramck; and the Yes Farm (Moran at Farnsworth, Detroit) and the Power House neighborhood (north of Car-

over to Small's for what promises to be an outrageous night of music and spoken word raving courtesy of Jello Biafra, who first gained attention as the lead singer and songwriter for San Francisco punk rock band Dead Kennedys.

Remember them? Of course you do.

After his time with the band was done, he took over man-

agement of the indie record label Alternative Tentacles, which he co-founded in 1979 with Dead Kennedys' bandmate East Bay Ray. Biafra was hardcore then, and he's hardcore now, putting out records by the Butthole Surfers, the Subhumans, the Pansy Division and a memorable box set containing the works of the late peoples' historian Howard Zinn.

Politically, Jello Biafra is a member of the U.S. Green Party and ran for the party's presidential nomination in 2000, finishing second to Ralph Nader. Biafra is known to use absurdist media tactics in the tradition of the Yippies (remember them? If not, call me and we'll talk) to highlight issues of civil rights, social justice, economic populism, boosterism, anti-corporatism, peace movements, anti-consumerism, environmentalism, anti-globalization, universal health care, gay rights, anti-capitalism, abortion access, feminism, and the separation of church and state.

That's some agenda. If only a fraction is part of this performance we'll be happy.

Say hello to Jello at Small's (10339 Conant Avenue, Hamtramck) this Saturday, Oct. 9. Doors are 8 p.m. Shout out "Street Life!" from the back of the room and see what happens. Have a wild - but not too wild - weekend everybody.

## Having a competitive edge for the 21st Century

Continued from page 5

of the many tools here at our disposal, by promoting this city as much as possible - and that, my friends, means scheduling at least five festivals or other major events per year.

Not to deviate from the principle matter at hand, but when I paid a recent visit to the City Council's chambers, I was mortified to see that, not only was the audio system obsolete and poor, but the temperature was ridiculously warm to the point where our elected officials had to expend much of their energy fanning themselves to keep cooled off or trying to

stay awake.

If we want to be like other effective communities, we should have, at a minimum, quality audio and video technologies; an up-to-date physical plant to help regulate the basic temperature and air quality, and each official should at least have their own laptops. Any ordinary company would at least have these minimal comforts and technologies, let alone a company running a \$18 million budget as our city does.

I still believe that we can have success, if we can get serious and adopt an opti-

mistic approach to our endeavors, by adapting a more corporate-like philosophy - one where we are looking for ways to maximize our profits, and yield returns on our investments to our city's finances. Wouldn't it be nice to see an increase in tax revenues - resulting from a shrewd application of basic business fundamentals - instead of always having to plead poverty, or be one step away from receivership?

With the proper forward-thinking mindset, I would argue that we absolutely can.

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# Hamtramck baseball documentary will be shown on Fox

Listen up, Hamtramck baseball fans.

The documentary on Hamtramck's famous Little League champs of 1959, "The Legend of Pinky Deras," will be broadcast this Sunday (Oct. 9), 9 p.m. on Fox Sports. The doc will also air three more times during the month - check your TV listings.

Here's a recap on what it's all about:

In the summer of 1959, a tall fastball artist named Art "Pinky" Deras led the team from Hamtramck to the Little League World Series championship. In the process, he put together an incredible season - the likes of which we'll probably never see again.

A half-century later, Pinky Deras is still considered the greatest Little Leaguer of all time. His amazing story - which has never been told before - comes to life in a new documentary by Stunt3

Multimedia and Blue Hammer Films, "The Legend of Pinky Deras: The Greatest Little Leaguer There Ever Was."

To this day, Hamtramck is still the only team from Michigan (or anywhere in the Midwest) ever to win the Little League World Series title. And Hamtramck still ranks as one of the most dominant Little League teams ever: In 13 tournament games that season (including three games in Williamsport, Pa.), Hamtramck only gave up two runs. In the Little League World Series championship game - as Pinky hurled a three-hitter and hit a three-run homer - Hamtramck whipped the team from Auburn, Calif., 12-0.

On the mound and at the plate, Pinky's statistics that season were staggering.

As a pitcher, he was 18-0 with 16 shutouts and 10 no-hitters. He struck out 298 batters in 108 innings -

which means that only 26 batters even hit the ball in fair territory against him.

At the plate, he batted .641 with 33 home runs and 112 runs batted in. More than 50 years after his incredible season, Little League officials still consider him to be the greatest player ever.

Two years after winning it all in Williamsport, Pinky led the team from Hamtramck to the Pony League World Series championship, as well. One of his teammates on that Hamtramck Pony League squad was future Major Leaguer Tom Paciorek, an All-Star with the Seattle Mariners in 1981 who spent 16 seasons in the Majors.

Paciorek, who is interviewed extensively in the film, says that Pinky is the best pitcher he ever faced - and he faced the likes of Nolan Ryan, Jim Palmer and Steve Carlton.

"The Legend of Pinky

Deras" features interviews with Pinky, Tom Paciorek and several of their teammates from Hamtramck, as well as Little League historian Lance Van Auken, who confirms that Pinky Deras was the most dominant Little Leaguer of all time. The film also includes rare, never-before-seen footage from the actual broadcast of the 1959 Little League World Series championship game.

The film was written and directed by Buddy Moorehouse and Brian Kruger of Stunt3 Multimedia and Blue Hammer Films, and narrated by Oliver Darrow. "We were amazed to find out that nothing had ever been done on Pinky before - not a single newspaper story, magazine article or anything," Kruger said. "This is truly an incredible story - the story of what happened to the greatest youth baseball player who ever lived."

## Obituaries



### MIKRUT

Stella Helena Bush Mikrut, age 90, died peacefully at home of cancer on Saturday, October 2, 2010.

A native of Hamtramck, MI, a graduate of Wayne State University, and resident of Lansing for 54 years, she and her beloved husband, Edward Boomie Mikrut, were married for over 67 years. A creative homemaker, Stella was an excellent cook, seamstress, and gardener, designing many beautiful garments and gardens in her lifetime.

She was formerly active in P.T.A., St. Gerard Parish women's guild, Polish Falcons of America Nest 652, and she played bridge and golf. A champion speller, she liked word puzzles and reading.

Stella had an artistic flair for flower arranging and hand-crafts. She loved music and dance, and encouraged her family in these arts. Stella's sweet, cheerful personality endeared her to her relatives and many friends.

Stella's advice for a long and happy marriage was, "One, you have to compromise; two, you have to have a sense of humor; and three, you've got to know how to dance!" Stella and Edward were a terrific dance team. Energetic jitterbuggers in their youth, they also enjoyed a good Polish polka, square dancing, and were the most graceful fox-trotters at their granddaughter's wedding in June.

Stella was witty, with a great sense of humor, and was a devoted mother, whose wisdom, example, and loving guidance are a legacy to her family. Always a strong proponent of education, she was very proud of all her children and grandchildren, and that each has attained or is pursuing professional and advanced degrees.

Surviving are four children: Marcia (Wilbert) Elbert of Flint, Christine (Don) Campbell of Holt, Laura (Dennis) Nezych of Marquette, and James (Mindy) Mikrut of Phoenix. Her 12 grandchildren are: Tiffany Elbert; Elizabeth Perry (daughter of Christine), Kelly (Eric) Campbell Strouse, and Kyle Campbell; Logan Mikrut; and the Nezych grandchildren, Daniel, Valerie (Brian) Walker, Alexander, Catherine, Jonathan, Christina, and Marianne also survived by her dear sister Jessie Bush of Warren and several nieces and nephews. They and her dear husband Boomie will miss her always. Stella was preceded in death by her 4-year-old daughter Sally Kay.

Funeral arrangements were made by Palmer, Bush & Jensen, Delta Chapel, 6020 W. Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan and a memorial service was held on October 7. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.palmerbush.com](http://www.palmerbush.com).

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Sparrow Home Hospice, in care of Palmer, Bush & Jensen, Delta Chapel, 6020 W. Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan 48917.

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**2353 Danforth, Hamtramck** - 4 Bedroom 2-Family, w/ 2-Car Garage, \$15,000

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

**7516 Jackson Ave., Warren** - 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 2 car garage w/ driveway \$19,900 "Short-Sale"

**3374 Comstock - Hamtramck** - 2 family home w/ 4 bedrooms, basement, garage. Needs minor repairs. \$25,000

**49254 Shady Glen, Chesterfield Twp.** "Bank Owned" Detached Condo 3 Bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, 2 car garage, \$119,900

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

**2348 Zinow - Hamtramck** - 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, completely remodeled. \$39,900

**2224 Belmont - Hamtramck** - Single family home w/ 2 bedrooms, living room, dining room, 1/4 basement \$29,900

**7240 Dale - Centerline** - Full brick ranch w/ 3 bedrooms, first floor laundry, side driveway, 2 1/2 car garage. \$59,900 - New Price!

**11662 Nagel - Hamtramck** - Completely renovated with custom designer touches throughout. 3 BR, built-in appliances, basement, garage. Must see to appreciate. \$125,000

**3454 Caniff - Hamtramck** - 4 bedroom, 2-family home in need of repair. Full basement, garage, \$25,000.

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12080 Lumpkin - \$34,900  
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2667 Whalen - \$69,900 NEW PRICE!  
Large beautiful full brick home w/full basement  
\*2336 Yemans - \$39,900 SOLD!

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15116 Telegraph - \$219,900 NEW PRICE! Commercial retail building in Redford with large showroom, warehouses and several offices.  
**Eastpointe:**  
\*24862 Rosalind \$21,900  
**Rochester Hills:**  
2759 Hickory Lawn - \$142,000 NEW PRICE!  
**Royal Oak:**  
\*5029 Thorncroft - \$159,800 NEW PRICE!  
**Shelby Township:**  
\*49135 Conway Ct. - \$74,900 Condo  
**Utica**  
\*45420 Brownell - 2 bedrooms \$500/mo.  
**Warren:**  
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\*11613 Charest - \$99,900  
3451 Comstock - \$39,900 NEW PRICE!  
2290 Geiner - \$49,900  
\*11429 Klinger - \$49,900  
12080 Klinger - \$29,900 NEW PRICE!  
12043 Moran - \$35,000 NEW PRICE!  
11358 Nagel - \$40,000 NEW PRICE!  
11372 Nagel - \$32,900 NEW PRICE!  
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# Homecoming season comes home to the Cosmos



The kids want a little action  
The kids want a little fun  
The kids all have to get  
their kicks  
Before the evening's done

'Cause they're goin' to  
(High school) rah, rah, rah  
(High school) sis, boom, bah  
(High school) hey, hey, hey  
You better let them have  
their way  
"High School" by the MC5

**By Charles Sercombe**

All right, hardly any high school students know of that old 1970s-era MC5 tune, but Hamtramck High School students had plenty

of the school spirit that the lyrics shout out during last Friday's Homecoming Parade down Jos. Campau.

They created floats and costumes and had a "sis, boom, bah" time hollering and laughing their way down Hamtown's main business district. As usual, the parade ended at Keyworth Stadium to "rah, rah, rah" the Cosmos football team.

The cheering worked its charm. The Cosmos won their first game of the season.

"Hey, hey, hey!"



Go Out  
on the  
Hamtown!



## Cosmos shut down STAR Academy in a blowout



**By Ian Perrotta**

Hamtramck football is blood, sweat and tears. When the Cosmos play they sweat and the other team bleeds and then goes home crying.

At least that was the case at last Friday's (Oct. 1) Homecoming game against STAR Academy. In a thrilling win over the Falcons, Hamtramck won its first game of the season with an impressive 26-0 victory.

The STAR team forfeited in the fourth quarter after a shoving match erupted between players on both sides.

The action started in the first quarter when senior running back John Blanding scored on a six-yard run to the goal line. In the second quarter, junior quarterback Kurel Butler cracked the game wide-open with a 40-yard touchdown pass to senior tight end D'juan Wilson, taking the score to 14-0 at halftime.

At the beginning of the third quarter, Wilson scored again, this time on a 10-yard run. Senior running back Nouradain Gazzali then closed the quarter with a two-yard run. By the fourth quarter, Head Coach Leo Wells decided to give his younger players a chance to play in the Homecoming game. Unfortunately, a scuffle ensued and the STAR team walked out on the game for the second year in a row.

Defensively, the Cosmos also came up big. Wilson and junior defensive linemen Cleveland Anderson each had

two sacks, and the rest of the defense denied STAR the opportunity to score.

Coach Wells attributes the

team's successful performance to a number of factors. While at the beginning of the season the team had just 14 players, the program has now more than doubled in size to 30 players, which understandably makes a huge difference. And though many are just freshmen and sophomores, they have been able to gain valuable game-time experience – something that is helping them improve off the field as well.

"I thought we had our best week of practice last week," said Wells, "and it really paid off. The key is keeping this group together. I'm excited about the future."

## Cosmos coach picks up from last year

So who is the new coach of the Cosmos?

Well, after former Hamtramck Head Coach Tarif Kumasari resigned midway through last year's season due to a player ineligibility scandal, then third-year Defensive Coordinator Leo Wells stepped-in and took his place.

Wells is a 1997 graduate of Hamtramck High and currently works for the Hamtramck Odyssey Project for Excellence (HOPE) program. He went to college for Secondary Education at Wayne State University, where he played defensive end on the football team and was a four-year starter. According to biographical information compiled for members of WSU's All-Decade Team by the school's newspaper The Examiner, Wells was nicknamed "Mr. Mean" and was named to the First Team All-GLIAC in 2005 after being selected to the Second Team in the three previous seasons.

Before becoming a coach, he played with the Peoria Roughriders of the United Indoor Football

League in 2006 and with the Kalamazoo Explosion of the Continental Indoor Football League in 2007.



But long before that he was just a Cosmo, so it's only appropriate that he's made his way back to Hamtramck. And if his past experience with the team is any indication of where it's heading in the future, the city could become a football town once again.

"I played on the last championship team at Hamtramck in 1995," says Wells, "and my goal is to get the program back to that level."



### Public Notice of the Wayne County Auction of Tax Foreclosed Properties

The auction of tax foreclosed properties will be conducted ONLINE. The auction begins on **October 22** and concludes on **October 28**. To participate, **all bidders must register no later than October 15**. For more information about how to register and participate in the October auction, please visit:

[www.bid4assets.com/wayne](http://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. no later than October 15, 2010.

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

**RAYMOND J. WOJTOWICZ**  
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 Term 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](http://www.treasurer.waynecounty.com)

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3849 Dorothy, second apt. in rear, 2 Br., \$300/month + security deposit, no pets, call Ahmed at 313-405-2266. 10/15

3 Br. upper and lower, nice, clean, good area, close to shopping plaza and school, references required + deposit, 248-854-4023. 10/15

3356 E. Palmer, 3 Br. upper, water included, \$450/month. Also, 13515 Syracuse St., 1 Br. upper, heat and water included, \$375/month, 586-634-5593. 10/29

GREAT DEAL – Hamtramck, Looking for a working couple who need a 2 Br. flat and a great landlord, appliances included, no pets, from \$400 to \$474/month, 248-321-8661. 10/29

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Hamtramck, 11638 Nagel, 2 Br. upper, \$475/month, 313-438-3438. 10/29

3 Br. apartment on Caniff, nice area, newly remodeled with appliances, adults preferred, \$500/month + security deposit, 313-516-9806. 10/8

Furnished, lower 1 Br., all utilities included, seniors or adult couple preferred, no pets, 313-319-6798. 10/8

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5008 Trowbridge, 3 Br lower, 1 bathroom, call for more info, 586-0033. 10/8

Hamtramck, 1 Br., includes everything, no pets, 313-632-5566. 10/15

Hamtramck, 2743 Poland, 2 Br. lower, living, dining, no pets, ask for Doda or David, 586-722-8963, or 586-978-2363. 10/22

Hamtramck, 2 Br. upper, carpet, super clean, appliances, full basement, washer-dryer, nice + clean attic, all passed inspection, \$500/month + \$500 deposit. For more info, call 586-604-0029, prefer adults only. 10/8

Hamtramck, Danforth St., 2 Br., nice + clean, \$400/month + security deposit, 313-712-6021. 10/8

## APARTMENTS & FLATS FOR RENT

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Single family, 3 Br., 5666 Caniff, \$500/month, 313-717-8049, 313-647-4062. 10/15

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## Coming Events

**OCTOBER 9, Sat. 2 - 4 p.m.** – Monthly Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross Parish, Pulaski at Fleming. All are welcome.

**OCTOBER 16, Sat., 4-7 p.m.** – Holy Cross Parish, Pulaski at Fleming, is having a Polish Dinner Fundraiser; dinners are \$8 and \$4, desserts are 50 cents, Grammy nominated accordionist Mike Zawojski will be performing. All are welcome.

**OCTOBER 10, Sunday, 1 p.m.** – The St. Theresa Guild of St. Florian Parish hosts their annual Autumn Fest Card & Bunco Party. Admission is \$7 and includes a lunch and a chance to win raffles and table and door prizes, located in the Parish Hall, 2626 Poland St.

**OCTOBER 13, Wed., 11 a.m.** – The Daughters of Isabella Mystical Rose Circle 736 will meet at Our Lady Queen of Apostle's activity center, entrance on Harold St.

**OCTOBER 27, Wed., noon** – The Daughters of Isabella

Mystical Rose Circle 736 will hold a "Fall card & Bunco social," featuring door and table prizes as well as a share the wealth raffle, lunch included, admission \$7, at Our Lady Queen of Apostles activity 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. 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.

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# Hamtown's movers and shakers

By Alan R. Madeleine

Who he is:  
Jeff Garbus

is the owner of Hamtramck's Record Graveyard, and has been in the record business for almost 30 years. We recently caught up with him to talk about his career in this field, the secret to his business' longevity, and some imminent changes.



great experience. The film industry in Michigan is happening. Alicia is a very down-to-earth person; nice. Richard was Richard; the director, Amy Heckerling, was a charm – so serious. It's something I would love to do again; perhaps at the Carpenter shop? They had a crew come in the day before, to rearrange, and then a crew the day after to put the store back together. It worked out well.

**Hello, Jeff. You and I have known each other for a while, and I have to first give you a bit of a plug here: I've always found you to be one of the fairest paying record buyers around Detroit. Tell our readers, if you would, how you came to make what is, for most of us who love music, a job out of what I presume was initially a hobby?**

Garbus: I just love music, and the physical record – the covers, and everything that goes with it. Growing up with records around the house, I always searched for great deals on records – being a teenager with very limited income. While out searching for records I liked, I would find great deals, too, on records I didn't care for, so I started buying them to sell or trade to stores, and such.

**Your store started life in Dearborn (Not ACTUALLY correct, as we shall see momentarily – Ed.). Give us a quick overview of the history of your enterprise, if you would – how you chose your original location, how and when you moved the store, and how it's been being a part of the Hamtramck scene for the last "x" number of years.**

Garbus: Actually, it started in Garden City, at Ford Road and Merriman, in the fall of 1981. I chose it for cheap rent, basically. Then, in 1989, I moved to Dearborn, where I sold from out of several locations, and finally I have been in Hamtramck the past nine years, having opened here in late 2001.

**It's an odd business, in a way, and I'm sure you have an interesting story or two from over the years. It may be more about a particular record than a person. Also, what are some of the more**

**sought after things nowadays – is there anything new that they're clamoring for out there on the streets? What types of music do you enjoy specifically, or tend to keep around or have trouble parting with?**

Garbus: In high school, I was a big Rush fan, after having seen them at my first concert – warming up for the warm-up band at the Michigan Palace. Years later Geddy Lee came to my Dearborn store, and was signing autographs. People were lined up around the block. That was special.

Mostly, collectors are looking for great but obscure music, records that were not hits necessarily. There are many independent Detroit/Hamtramck record labels that put out three, or, say eight, records with limited pressings of just a few hundred. True collectors search out, and pay for, these limited and rare recordings.

Personally, I listen to all kinds of music. I like 50s jazz, Blue Note recordings; lots of Latin funky soul-influenced music.

**Now here's the big bombshell – you're planning to, hopefully, sell the store, or else close it, by the end of this year. As such, you're dropping your prices to liquidate as much stock as you can as quickly as you can. Care to comment on what your plans will be after the new year? In the meantime, will you still be buying records from the public, and if so, for how long? Will you continue buying even after you no longer have a brick and mortar storefront, and if yes, how will people find you to sell their wares to you at**

**that point?**

Garbus: I am always buying records! I need records badly. In fact, this is partly why I am closing, as no one is selling records any more. The stock that is in the store at this time is going to be sold, marked down lower and lower until it's all gone. I have a house on Carpenter St. which is an old storefront. I hope to open a small shop there in the summer of 2011. We will see. You can always find me online, on eBay – my eBay ID is Recordgraveyard1.

**There was some excitement here a few weeks back, when the film "Vamps" decided to use your store as an interior location for filming. We saw Richard Lewis and Alicia Silverstone around, among others. What was the overall experience like for you? Would you do it again? I know they changed your store around quite a bit; were you satisfied that they put everything back where it belonged, and treated the place all right? How were the stars, director and crew to you personally?**

Garbus: It was a

**Finally, now's the time to thank anyone that you care to, or for that matter hurl insults or I-told-you-so's. Also, maybe you'd care to say what else you might have done, had you not gone into this business. Any regrets, things you might have done differently, or for that matter things you're glad you did the way you did? And, will you miss Hamtramck?**

Garbus: It's all good. I started out in 1981. I keep hearing that the economy hasn't been this bad since 1981, which makes me laugh, since that means that I also started off during a major economic downturn, but I was at least able to still become kind of successful, thanks to record lovers everywhere. Keep on spinning!

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## He's a long-shot but willing to bet he'll beat the odds

Continued page 3

dates in the near future. betting on winning.

He is married and has three children. Alim says his interest in public office is just a prelude for the great things he predicts for his eldest child, a 12-year-old son.

"He going to be an ambassador for the U.S.," Alim said.

One of the talking points he stresses while going door-to-door to campaign is bringing back jobs. He said he will work to make it a requirement that major corporations hire locally.

He also promises to hire more firefighters and police officers and build a second fire station in Hamtramck.

"In Hamtramck, there is only ONE fire station!" he says in his campaign literature. "That is unbelievable!"

So is Alim a long-shot or a spoiler? Considering his casino background, Alim said despite having the odds stacked against him, he's



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