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## Pope Monument in need of repairs

by Larry Lizewski

Setting own interests aside and working together under the umbrella of The Pope Park Project, an alliance of Hamtramck groups have joined in an effort to repair Hamtramck's park and monument honoring Pope John Paul II. Began more than eight months ago by Hamtramck's Catholic, Polish, preservation and business community, the effort has gained momentum by the passing of a leader whose ideas all subscribe.

Knights of Columbus member and Hamtramck Police Sargeant, Walter Tripp, along with fellow Brother Knight Tom Rusell, established a web-site with the goal of giving the fundraiser national attention. The site has generated more than 1000 hits.

Acting Grand Knight of Hamtramck's K of C council, Cardinal Mercier, Jeff Stawasz states, "The Pope Park Project is not about the Knights of

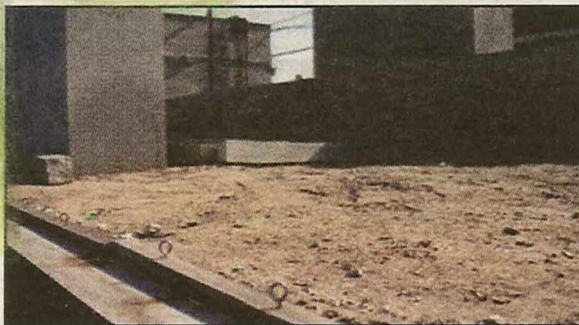
Columbus, the Piast Institute, Preserve Our Parks nor Hamtramck but his Holiness John Paul II who led in changing world."

The Piast Institute, an organization assisting in Polish-American affairs, is offering professional fundraising experience and contacts without management compensation, establishing a bank account in the projects name according to Executive Director of the Piast Institute, Virginia Skrzyniarz

In a recent meeting held April 14, 2005, the group discussed possibilities to raise \$125,000 to \$175,000---the estimated cost to repair the deteriorating



"Pope Park" starting to show its age.



PARK cont'd  
on page 10

## Fresh strawberries and enthusiasm at this year's Festival

by Larry Lizewski

Chairing the 37th Annual St. Florian Strawberry Festival planning committee for the first time, Stephanie Colonna and Kim Hancasky want to make it the best it can be and beginning Friday, April 29 through Sunday, May 1, their fresh ideas and enthusiasm are aimed to carry on the traditional Hamtramck event.

Planning since November, the young women have worked to make the festival one to last.

"We want to entice the younger generation to the festival as well as to Hamtramck," says Colonna.

"New stuff for young people," chimes Hancasky.

In the spirit of predecessors, Mr. Alan and Mr. Pietrak, they want to make Hamtramck proud---grateful of it's influence. Both have children enrolled at St. Florian with Colonna on the Gwiazda Dance Group board of directors based out of St. Florian. With recent financial troubles of Catholic parishes, the pair is working with a meager budget but finding willing volunteers including top act talent made the production more special with the majority of acts donating their time free. A point the women also would like to offer the festival goers. "We want to promote and acknowledge the local music scene."

On schedule are Danny D. (outside at Noon Saturday), Polish Muslims (at 4 Sunday), D.J. Blade (spinning outside both Saturday and Sunday), and a historical walking tour of St. Florian Church conducted by local renounced historian Greg Kowalski.

Sunday an ariel photo will be taken of the festival grounds showing the bodies gathered. Food by local restaurants Chabelita's Mexican restaurant, Polish Village Cafe, Shish-kabob from Maine Street and Genies Weinies will be served. ♦

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

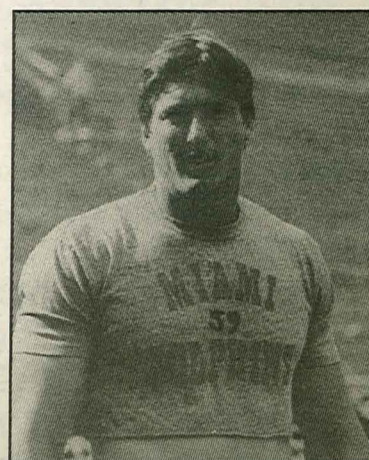
- Business Directory ..... 3
- Classifieds ..... 11
- Community Calendar ..... 10
- Did You Know ..... 9
- Horoscope ..... 9
- Library Briefs ..... 10
- Recipe of the Week ..... 9
- Word Search ..... 9

## 3 elected to National Polish-American Sports HOF

Former pro football linebacker Bob Brudzinski, All-Star baseball pitcher Ron Reed and All-Pro tight end Ted Kwalick have been elected into the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame. They will be honored at the 33rd annual Testimonial Banquet and Induction ceremonies Thursday, June 9, at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, MI. Tickets for the banquet, which begins at 6 p.m., are \$75, which

includes an open bar and a traditional Polish family-style dinner. Orders are being taken by calling (313) 407-3300. The election of Brudzinski, Reed and Kwalick brings the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame roster to 95. The Hall was founded in 1973 and former St. Louis Cardinal baseball great Stan Musial was the first inductee. Brudzinski was the top vote-getter being named on 147 of

the 322 ballots cast, while Reed finished second with 145 votes. The top two of 20 candidates are elected. Kwalick was selected by the Hall's Veterans Committee from a group of nominees who were previously on the ballot for a seven year period and not elected. Eight former athletic greats received 100 or more votes in the balloting. Wrestler Killer



Top vote-getter Brudzinski

HOF cont'd on page 10

