

# Director of bilingual education named

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Devotees of diversity have a new name to put into their Rolodex: Samir Haddad, who has been named Farmington Public Schools' director of Bilingual Education.

Haddad, 44, succeeds Haroun Alameddine, 62, who retired last month after 25 years at Farmington Board of Education approved Haddad's appointment at Monday's meeting.

Haddad served in a similar capacity as director of special projects for Hamtramck Public Schools.

He joins a district that proud-

ly boasts of 64 different languages being spoken. The Bilingual Department serves 376 students in 17 languages, including Arabic/Chaldean, Albanian, Japanese, Indian and Russian. The task hardly has him quaking in his shoes.

Ethnic makeup of Hamtramck includes Albanian, Yugoslavian, Ukrainian, Polish, and Arabic speaking students. The schools have had a large influx of students from Yemen, where only 33 percent of the people can read.

Many times finding ways to communicate was only part of the riddle. A large number of students arrive in the district

not knowing English at all.

"When you're talking about zero English students, not only are you dealing with a different language but a different culture," said Haddad, a native of Jordan who lives in Plymouth.

"We're dealing with students who are not used to being in this culture. We have 10 to 15-year-olds who have never been to school."

Yemenis are the latest immigrants to make Hamtramck home. The city also has a large Albanian and Polish community.

Haddad served as a bilingual teacher in Hamtramck schools since 1977. He also spent three

years as director of the University of Michigan-Dearborn's bilingual teaching endorsement program.

He helped develop Hamtramck schools' English as a Second Language Programs and trained teachers to work with those students. Part of the process involved educating parents as well, he said.

Haddad has a doctorate in bilingual education from Wayne State University, a master's in linguistics from WSU, and a bachelor's degree in English language and literature from Damascus University.

During his tenure, bilingual education has grown.



Samir Haddad

## Car show Sunday

The Cadillac-LaSalle Club, Lake St. Clair Region, is having its annual car show Sunday, July 16, at Greenmead Historical Village, Eight Mile at Newburgh in Livonia.

The show will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The featured cars are the famed Cadillacs (1949-64) and the Eastern Michigan Camaro Club is the guest club. Prizes and gift bags will be given for the first 150 show cars.

The categories include antique, classic, custom, hot rod, and special interest.

Among residents who will be in the show are Paul Ayres of Farmington Hills with a 1941 Cadillac Fleetwood.

For information call 810-442-9764.

## RECREATION NEWS

Each week, the Recreation Division of the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services presents a synopsis of upcoming activities. For more information regarding programs, call the recreation office at 473-9570.

### AMUSEMENT PARK DISCOUNT TICKETS

Tickets for amusement parks can be bought at discount rates at the recreation office.

Savings on tickets to Cedar Point, Detroit Zoo, Four Bears Water Park, King's Island, Sea World and Greenfield Village are offered.

### FOUNDERS FESTIVAL ROAD RACE

During the festivities of the Founders Festival, a four-mile run will be held on Saturday, July 15, starting and finishing at Shiawassee Park.

The route will be through various areas and terrains of the city of Farmington.

The race starts at 9 a.m. with check in at 8:15 a.m.

There will be divisions for men and women for 17 and under, 40 and over, and open.

Fee is \$10 per person, \$12 after July 11. Fee includes race T-shirt. Pre-register at the recreation office.

### STARS IN THE PARK

Bring your lawn chair or blankets and listen to the sounds of the Farmington Community Band on Thursday, July 20 at Heritage Park. Concert begins at 8 p.m. and there is no charge.

### SWIM LESSONS

Classes will be offered at the Activities Center or Farmington High School pool beginning the week of July 17.

Each site will provide classes from preschool beginner on up.

Registration for these classes should be made at the Recreation office. For specific times and length of session call 473-9570.

### YOUTH OLYMPICS

Children, ages 6-14, can participate on Wednesday, July 19 at Heritage Park at 6:30 p.m. in the 19th Annual Farmington Hills Youth Olympics.

Children can participate in one of the following events: chinning, softball throw, standing long jump, running long jump, 50-, 60-, or 75-yard dash, shuttle relay and agility run.

If the child wins his category, he will go on to the Metro Youth Olympics on July 27. Contact the Recreation office at 473-9570 for nearest summer fun center registration.

### YOUTH SOCCER REGISTRATION

Registration is being accepted until Aug. 4 at the Recreation office for children in kindergarten through third grade for the fall soccer program.

Teams will play a five-game schedule which will be played on Saturdays beginning Sept. 9.

Volunteer coaches are needed for this program. Contact Herman Smith at 473-9570 if you are willing to coach. Fee is \$22 per child.

### EDUCATION NATURALLY

On Wednesday, July 26, Naturalist Joe Deak will lead you on a tour of the Visitor Center at Heritage Park and then present a program on river and pond life.

Program times are 1 p.m., 3 p.m. or 6 p.m., 8 p.m. Joe will use slide presentations, displays and hands-on experience to help you learn and understand more about nature. There is no fee for this program.

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