



Hello, Hamilton County

E-News for Hamilton County Residents and Staff

November 26, 2003

“We will serve the residents of Hamilton County by providing the best and most responsive county government in America.”
— Hamilton County Vision

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Thanksgiving Day

According to tradition, the first American Thanksgiving Day was celebrated in 1621, by the English Pilgrims who founded the Plymouth Colony, now in the state of Massachusetts. The Pilgrims marked the occasion by feasting with members of the Wampanoag tribe, who brought gifts of food as a gesture of goodwill. Although this event was an important part of American colonial history, there is no evidence that any of the participants thought of the feast as a thanksgiving celebration. Two years later, during a period of drought, a day of fasting and prayer was changed to one of thanksgiving because rains came during the prayers. Gradually, the custom prevailed among New Englanders to annually celebrate Thanksgiving Day after the harvest.

The tradition of holding annual thanksgiving holidays spread throughout New England and into other states. During the American Revolution, the Continental Congress proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving following the American victory at the Battle of Saratoga in 1777. President George Washington proclaimed another day of thanksgiving in 1789 in honor of the ratification of the Constitution of the United States. In 1817, New

York State adopted Thanksgiving Day as an annual custom, and many other states soon did the same. Most of the state celebrations were held in November, but not always on the same day.

In the mid-19th century, Sarah Josepha Hall led a movement to establish Thanksgiving as a national holiday. In 1863, during the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November Thanksgiving Day.

During the 20th century, as the population became increasingly urban, new Thanksgiving traditions emerged. The day after Thanksgiving gradually became known as the first day of the Christmas shopping season. To attract customers, large retailers, such as Macy's in New York City and Gimbel's in Philadelphia, began to sponsor lavish parades. The custom of watching football games on Thanksgiving Day also evolved during the early decades of the 20th century.

In 1939, President Franklin Roosevelt shifted the day of Thanksgiving from the last Thursday in November to one week earlier. Retail merchants had petitioned the president to make the change

to allow for an extra week of shopping between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Many Americans objected to the change and continued to celebrate Thanksgiving Day on the last Thursday of the month. Roosevelt's political opponents in Congress also opposed the break with tradition and dubbed the earlier holiday "Franksgiving." Finally, in May 1941, Roosevelt signed a bill establishing the fourth Thursday of November as the national Thanksgiving holiday.

Thanksgiving 2003 will be celebrated by some families sharing a feast as the Pilgrims and Native Americans did. Others will settle down in front of the television for a day of nationally televised football games. Some will begin preparation for the shopping season. Still others will spend the day reaching out to others who are less fortunate. Some will do a combination of these.

Whatever your plans may be, have a wonderful Thanksgiving and remember to pause and reflect upon all that you have to be thankful for.

Information for this article found at <http://Encarta.msn.com>.
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Freelance Writer

2004 budget released.
Visit
www.hamilton-co.org
and select the
Hamilton County
Budget button
for details.



Risk Management Information System

In early December, Hamilton County will "go live" with a Risk Management Information System (RMIS). "This countywide data gathering, information storage and dispensing system will assist the county in claims management, insurance procurement, asset inventory and safety administration," said county Risk Manager Tim Grabenstein. The RMIS will be the data source to determine the county's "cost of risk."

Hamilton County applied to the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation to provide self-insured workers' compensation effective January 1, 2004. The RMIS provides workers' compensation claims management as one of the two initial lines of coverage. By mid-December, workers' compensation claim forms will be entered into the RMIS and managed electronically. "This will result in fewer errors, decreased response time to the injured worker, and more timely and accurate decisions regarding medical and lost wage issues," added Tim.

The RMIS database is also programmed to capture motor vehicle liability claims. The county's large motor vehicle fleet, coupled with its numerous and various operators in a large urban territory, increases the county's risk for motor vehicle accidents. The RMIS helps identify accident trends and

causes so that management can provide behavior modification or corrective actions to decrease accident severity or frequency.

Other areas, such as general liability, property losses and theft claims, will be incorporated into RMIS in 2004. The Metropolitan Sewer District is currently working with risk management to develop and implement a claim tracking system for sewer backups and flooding. This module will be part of the overall RMIS.

For additional information, contact Tim Grabenstein, 946.4322.

"... this should be a day of giving as well as a day of thanks."

President Ronald Reagan
1981

Thanksgiving Day
Proclamation



Samantha ~ born October 1995
Leocadia ~ born November 1997

Samantha and Leocadia are outgoing girls who have a lot of energy and love to share. They enjoy each other's company and their favorite activities include playing outdoors, riding their bicycles, dodge ball and swinging on the swing sets.

Samantha loves attending school and is educationally on target. She would like to be a school teacher someday. Leocadia enjoys school and is making steady progress. She is very eager to learn new things.

Samantha and Leocadia need to be placed together. They need a family that will provide a caring, loving and consistent home for them.

Thursday's Child For Information Call 513.632.6366



Samantha



Leocadia

County-City-CPS Collaborative Event

The managers of the Hamilton County Small, Minority and Female Business Development Program, the



City of Cincinnati's Small Business Enterprise Program, and the

Supplier Diversity for Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) came together to sponsor their third collaborative event, the Public Entities Small Business Workshop. The half-day event was held at the Cincinnati Convention Center on Friday, November 14. More than 90 small business representatives were in attendance.

The workshop was an opportunity for small businesses, registered with at least one of the three public entities, to obtain information about the programs

and the purchasing processes.

County Administrator, David J. Krings, gave welcoming remarks during the opening session and emphasized the Commissioners' commitment to small businesses. Bernice L. Walker, Director of the county's program, coordinated with Purchasing Director Amy B.



Hoh for the presentation, "How Hamilton County Conducts Business."

"We are excited that we received positive evaluations from the participants, and we will meet to discuss possible future projects of the collaborative," said Ms. Walker.

In April 2003, the county, city and CPS program managers met to discuss com-

binning efforts to better serve small businesses, and to increase the participation of small businesses in local government projects.

The collaborative was viable since all three entities use the U.S. Small Business Administration's size standards for defining a small business, have similar registration processes, and target many of the same businesses.

For more detailed information about the county's program, contact Bernice Walker, 946.4323 or visit www.hamilton-co.org/das/sbe1.htm.



fyi

- ◆ Weight Watchers members from the September to November class lost a collective total of 264 pounds during their 12-week session. Congratulations!
- ◆ On December 8, at a brown bag lunch seminar, CCAO will present information related to investing basics.
- ◆ OPERS will present a general overview of benefits at a brown bag lunch seminar on December 11.
- ◆ You can sign up for Personnel's 1st quarter 2004 training classes. Check out the new "Opportunities" newsletter by visiting www.hamilton-co.org/personnel/HRDacrobat/1q04newsletter.pdf.
- ◆ Every 3 minutes a woman is diagnosed with cancer. Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for women ages 35 to 50. Early detection is the key.
- ◆ The best time to get your flu shot is in October or November. December, however, is not too late.

Recycle Your Old Cell Phones

As the holiday season approaches, many people are purchasing the latest model cell phone. How will you dispose of your old phone? Although cell phones do not pose a threat to people using them, they do contain arsenic, zinc and lead and should not be thrown in a landfill. To properly recycle your cell phone visit your neighborhood Verizon, Sprint or Franklin Covey store. Each of these stores will accept cell phones for recycling.

Any hand-carried (not vehicle-installed) cellular, battery and charger will be accepted. No matter what size, look or condition, all wireless phones are accepted. Even nonworking phones are accepted. Cell phones can also be dropped off at the Women's Crisis Center of Northern Kentucky.

Cell phones received for recycling will be refurbished and reprogrammed and donated to domestic violence victims for safety measures, and also to public schools. Cell phones that cannot be refurbished will be recycled according to federal, state and local regulations.

When purchasing your new cell phone, remember to do the right thing for the environment and your community — recycle. For more information call 946.7734 or visit www.hcdoes.org.

CPD Intranet Site

The County Personnel Department (CPD) has been working to improve its Intranet site. The enhancements will be beneficial to all county employees.

New additions include benefits information, such as the *Employee Guide to County Benefits*, the mammography program, flexible spending accounts and frequently asked questions.

There is also a new link to access information about discounts available to employees. Other information posted on the site includes the Commissioners' Policy Manual, human resource forms, training opportunities and job openings.

For easy access to this site visit <http://hcnet/personnel>.

Chili Cook-off At Coroner's Office

Who said things are dead at the Coroner's Office? The staff of about 40 professionals there disagree.

Day in and day out, the Coroner's office staff work diligently to determine why people die, and to perform scientific testing to help police agencies convict or exonerate suspects accused of murder, rape, robbery, arson, drug abuse and various other crimes. But they also have a lighter side.

This was demonstrated on October 30, when staff organized and participated in a "chili cook-off" to raise funds for charity. Some employees entered their chili recipes while others made their specialty side dishes. Participants contributed \$5 to taste each chili and vote for their favorite.

The event was first started to raise funds for the Red Cross following the terrorist

attacks on September 11, 2001. The event was such a success that it became an annual affair. The winner of the contest selects the charity to which the funds will be donated.

This year, there was a tie between Greg Rolfsen and John Walker. A total of \$160 was raised and \$80 was sent to both Children's Hospital and the Leukemia Society.

Each co-winner will display the trophy in his work area for six months and enjoy bragging rights.

Not only does the event allow the Coroner's staff to raise funds for their favorite charity, it also brings them together for good food and a good time!

Pictured are co-winners, Greg Rolfsen and John Walker.



Holiday Boutique and Rummage Sale

The Beckman Adult Center will hold a holiday boutique and rummage sale on December 2, 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Baked goods, crafts and rummage sale items will be available. Everything will be reasonably priced.

The Beckman Adult Center is located at 2600 Civic Center Drive (near the Sheriff's Headquarters).

The fundraiser will assist in financing the activities of the non-vocational program.

If you have questions about the event, call Carol Smith, 742.1576.

New HHC Staff Member

Cheryl Willis, Administrative Assistant for the Small, Minority, and Female Business Development Program, has been added to the *Hello, Hamilton County* (HHC) staff.

Ms. Willis will assist in soliciting information and compiling articles for the newsletter. She can be reached at 946.4324 or via e-mail at cheryl.willis@hamilton-co.org.

We thank Cheryl for volunteering her expertise and welcome her to the HHC staff.

"Got News?"
If you have county news for *Hello, Hamilton County*, send an email to Sharon Booker at sharon.booker@hamilton-co.org.
Next deadline: **December 8.**



Please remember to print and post *Hello, Hamilton County* in your areas so that everyone can see what's going on!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue.

Hello, Hamilton County is published twice monthly on the County's web page. It is intended to inform both Hamilton County residents and staff. If you have questions or suggestions for future editions, please contact Sharon Booker (946.4428), Peter Hames (946.4432), or Cheryl Willis (946.4324). To subscribe or unsubscribe visit www.hamilton-co.org and click on the green "Newsletter" button.