



Hello, Hamilton County

E-News for Hamilton County Citizens and Employees

December 4, 2002

Quote of the week: "You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist." – Indira Gandhi

Special Points of Interest:

- Yakutsk Russia building officials visit Hamilton County
- Krings' budget message
- Entrepreneur of the Year award
- COMPASS still setting direction
- Thursday's Child
- PBS suite drawing
- Implosion raffle
- Forum held at PBS
- Commissioners—Home Builders partnership
- Transitioning to heating
- Service pins awarded
- It's a good thing!

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Dobro posalovat is "welcome" in Russian which is what Hamilton County's Planning, Zoning and Building departments did this month for urban planning and building officials from Yakutsk Russia. County Administrator Dave Krings welcomed the Yakutsk officials and commented that, "Growing up in Wisconsin was like living in the sunbelt compared to the Yakutsk climate" where temperatures range from -112 F in winter to +112 F in summer.

Regional Planning Director Ron Miller, Senior Planners Paul Smiley and Bryan Snyder, Building Commissioner Tonia Edwards, Zoning Plans Examiner Mary Berta, and Permit Coordinator Cindy

Dobro Posalovat!



Reatherford presented several points of interest to the Yakutsk officials.

Ron Miller observed that, "Meeting with our Arctic neighbors renewed our appreciation for democratic

process and gave us a new appreciation for Cincinnati weather."

Pictured: Yakutsk officials are given a demonstration of the award-winning CAGIS system.

Protect services, restrain spending Is Krings' budget message

County Administrator Dave Krings presented his recommended budget to the County Commissioners with a message that services should be protected, while spending is restrained. Krings' proposed 2003 budget highlights include no layoffs of existing staff and

no changes in essential service levels. Krings concluded his presentation to the Board saying, "We recognize the value of our employees and invest in their training and development, and we continue the maintenance of our capital assets. These are the essential ele-



ments of our services." The budget now must be approved by the Commissioners. Summaries of key budget pieces are available on the Hamilton County homepage (www.hamilton-co.org).

Hamilton County
Development Co., Inc.



David Main — Entrepreneur of the Year

We send our congratulations to David Main, President of the Hamilton County Development Company. David was named the East Great Lakes Region winner of the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Supporter

of Entrepreneurship award.

To learn more about HCDC, visit their website located on the Hamilton County home page listed under County Sites.

It's a good thing!

Steve Burns of the Recorder's Office reported \$4,000 was saved on a recent order by using Demand Star. Thanks to Purchasing Director Amy Hoh for making this available to us.

Community COMPASS Still Setting Direction — Planning Partnership reviewing goals and objectives

The Community COMPASS (comprehensive master plan and strategies) process, it would seem, is all about numbers: 11 community forums; one hugely successful countywide town meeting (CTM) with 1,300 Hamilton County citizens in attendance; four core goals, four COMPASS action teams; 144 strategies and 30 initiatives. Currently, key volunteers, both civic and private, are working to combine all of these numbers into one unified vision.

Community COMPASS is the countywide organization dedicated to bringing together all interested groups to plan for Hamilton County's future. Since October 2001, COMPASS has been working diligently, uniting the ideas and aspirations of a diverse group of County citizens.

For the past several weeks, Planning Partnership representatives have been meeting to review goals and objectives resulting from the

CTM and COMPASS action teams' work. Their purpose is to set COMPASS on a direction that will ultimately lead to approvals and endorsements by the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission and the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners.

COMPASS continues to benefit from the input of interested and concerned citizens during this review process. This input will result in a new master plan for

Hamilton County, the first countywide Master Plan since 1964. According to Ron Miller, Executive Director of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission, "The County will soon begin to realize the positive outcomes from long range thinking and public involvement through the efforts of COMPASS."

www.communitycompass.org

Thursday's Child — Adoption and Foster Care



Doneisha, born July 24, 1990, is very personable and energetic. She likes basketball, jump rope, four square, hopscotch, dodge ball, and roller-skating. School is high on Doneisha's list of fun things to do. She is on target educationally and makes good grades. Her intellectual functioning and IQ are in the average range. Doneisha needs a family that will provide her with a loving and stable environment.



Brenda, born October 19, 1990, can't wait to be a teenager. Her moody side makes her a good candidate for her teen years, but her sweet side shines through too. She is a bright fourth grader and makes good grades. Reading is her favorite subject. Brenda does not live with her siblings, but takes her role as big sister seriously.

Call 632-6366 for information

Hamilton County offers a chance to watch a Bengals game from PBS suite

Until December 2 at 8:00 a.m. (November 30 at Northgate Mall), people can register for the drawing. The random drawing will provide 16 winners and a guest an opportunity to see one of two Bengals games in December. Hamilton County will provide the use of its Paul Brown Stadium suite for the winners' use, including food and soft drinks. "Hamilton County taxpayers are who made Paul Brown Stadium possible," stated Commission President Tom Neyer,

Jr. "This is one way to say 'thank you' to the taxpayers who are paying for its construction," said Commissioner John Dowlin. Commissioner Todd Portune added, "They're the ones who pay sales taxes in Hamilton County, making PBS possible, and it's a fun way for them to have a chance to enjoy an event in the suite." The drawing for the suite tickets will take place as a part of the Commissioners' December 4, 9:30 a.m. meeting.

Hamilton County, O'Rourke Wrecking, United Way Announce Implosion Raffle

Hamilton County, O'Rourke Wrecking Company and United Way and Community Chest will hold a raffle to determine who gets to push the button that triggers the Cinergy Field implosion; who gets to perform the countdown; and who gets a bird's-eye view of the action from the VIP viewing area at Paul Brown Stadium. United Way and Community Chest is managing the raffle and will be its beneficiary. Commissioners Tom Neyer, Jr., John Dowlin and Todd Portune

agreed that since this is a publicly-funded project, it seemed only appropriate that someone from the community has these honors. Raffle tickets are \$10 each and everyone is invited to participate. Entry forms are available at www.uwgc.org/implosion. Entries must be received no later than December 16, 2002, and winners will be randomly drawn and announced at the Commissioners' December 18.



Forty vendors and eighteen County departments participated in the Face-to-Face Forum held November 21, 2002 at PBS.

On Thursday, November 21, 2002, Hamilton County held its first *Face-to-Face Forum* to give businesses registered with the County's Small Business Program the opportunity to directly market their businesses to County staff buyers.

Participation was limited to the first forty vendors and there was a waiting list of additional vendors. Eighteen County depart-

ments/agencies were represented by almost forty people at the *Forum*. The Paul Brown Stadium Press Box Dining Room was converted to a trade fair atmosphere.

Bernice L. Walker, Director of Hamilton County's Small, Minority and Female Business Development said, "Overall, I am very pleased with this event; the vendors did an excellent job. Next time we will enhance our

Face-To-Face Forum held at Paul Brown Stadium



marketing efforts to increase the number of vendors and County staff who participate."

The County's Small Business Program was established by the County Commissioners in 1998. The Program's goal is to increase the County's contracting with small businesses for goods and services. The office has sponsored three other outreach activities within the

last year. The earlier events provided vendors with detailed information of how the County conducts business and makes purchasing decisions.

For more information about Hamilton County's Small, Minority and Female Business Development Office, contact Ms. Walker at 513.946.4323.

County Commissioners Form partnership with the Home Builders

The Board of County Commissioners and the Home Builders Association share a common philosophy on many key matters relating to growth, development, and assuring a high quality of life for Hamilton County citizens. Both strongly agree that assuring quality housing for all Americans is an integral component of a region's growth and development. In addition, both support locally based planning initiatives that ensure the economic, environmental, social, and housing needs of community residents are met and preserved. On November 20 the Commissioners and the Home Builders Association entered into a partnership for the purpose of creating sustainable local communities throughout the County.



Pictured with Commissioners Portune, Neyer, and Dowlin is Home Builders President Terry Sieving.

Transitioning to heating in County buildings—what does that mean to you?

At this time of year County buildings are transitioning to the heating season. That means the chillers are drained until we need air conditioning next summer and the boilers are turned on. It also means we may have some transitional days when the buildings are too warm or too cold. This is a great time to review the ABCs of staying comfortable and reducing energy consumption in buildings for the next six months or so. Here's a list of tips to help you:

- Dress in layers.
- Remove space heaters.
- Drink lots of water.
- Unplug unnecessary plug loads.
- Close blinds before leaving the office.
- Remove personal appliances.

Please bear with the crew as they calibrate hundreds of sensors, work out kinks on boilers, and generally transition into the new season.

—Thank you,
Department of County Facilities

JFS employees receive 25 years service pins



Commissioner Portune, Helen Howell, Janet Packer, Commissioner Neyer, Administrator Dave Krings

Helen Howell and Janet Packer received service pins at the November 27 Commissioners' meeting.

Ms. Howell has worked for Job and Family Services since 1977. She is a field supervisor in Homemaker Services. Her supervisor commented that she is an absolute pleasure to work with. Janet Packer also began employment in 1977. In 1999 she transferred from Assistance Control to the Lockland Office to become a nursing home worker. Janet's supervisor states she is a pleasure to supervise because she is dependable and gets the job done.



Please remember to 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 residents and staff of Hamilton County. If you have questions or suggestions for future editions, please contact Sharon Booker (946.4428) or Peter Hames (946.4432) in the County Administrator's office.