



# Hello, Hamilton County

E-News for Hamilton County Residents and Staff

February 5, 2003

Quote of the week: "The one who sees the beauty doesn't see the difference." African Proverb

## Hamilton County hosts delegation from China

### Inside this issue:

Chinese delegation	1
2003 NACo and NACIO Awards	2
Dave Krings recognized by ICMA	2
CPS recognizes Bernice Walker	2
Thursday's Child	2
"Green Resolution"	3
Courthouse Café reopened	3
2003 Tree Sale	3
Waterfest	4

**Which County employees have participated in and which will participate in the Boston Marathon?**

**See our next issue for the answer to this question!**



The full delegation from China, pictured here, met with County Commissioners' staff in the Commissioners' meeting room prior to visiting several Hamilton County departments for hands-on experiences.

Pictured left to right are: Chad Nimz, Joe Gagliardo, Mr. Xie, Sarah Rosebraugh, Mr. Yang, and Deana Taylor.



### Hamilton County's Training Program Goes International

Human Resource (HR) professionals from Hunan Province, China (pictured above) recently spent several days learning about HR practices in America from staff in our Personnel Department. As a part of their advanced degree learning experience with Xavier University, two members of the delegation attended Hamilton County's Employee Orientation, received overviews of each CPD Division, worked on several HR tasks, and participated in a *Leadership For Results* training session.

## 2003 NACo Achievement Awards

Applications are available for the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2003 Achievement Awards Program and the National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO) Awards of Excellence.

The NACo Achievement Award is a noncompetitive awards program which seeks to recognize innovative county government programs.

The NACIO Awards of Excellence recognize outstanding

efforts by counties in providing public information and fostering effective communication with citizens.

The deadline for NACo submissions is February 14, 2003. The NACIO deadline is March 5. Applications should be sent to Peter Hames no later than February 13.

Contact Mr. Hames, 946.4432 for NACo and NACIO awards application information.

## Dave Krings recognized by ICMA

Hamilton County Administrator Dave Krings was recently recognized as an International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Credentialed Manager.

The ICMA Credentialed Manager is qualified by a combination of education and experience in professional local government management, by adherence to high standards of integrity, and by a demonstrated commitment to lifelong learning and professional development.

At the January 2003 meeting, the ICMA Credentialing Advisory Board recommended to the ICMA Executive Board that Mr. Krings be approved for this recognition.

ICMA Executive Director Robert J. O'Neill, Jr. notified Mr. Krings of the approval with a congratulatory letter and a certificate. The recognition is for the period January 2003 through January 2004.

## Bernice Walker recognized by Cincinnati Public Schools

Congratulations to Bernice Walker, Director of our Small, Minority, and Female Business Development!

On January 21, Ms. Walker was recognized by the Cincinnati Public Schools' (CPS) Supplier Diversity Program and its Manager, Pamela E. Mullins, as an "Outstanding Networking Peer." The Celebration and Awards Recognition Ceremony was designed to honor those who have contributed to the initial success of the CPS program.

Ms. Walker introduced herself to Ms. Mullins shortly after she began her position with the Cincinnati Public Schools and shared information with her about the small business sector. Ms. Walker has since supported Ms. Mullins' efforts in developing and promoting the program.

The Small, Minority, and Female Business Development office worked with staff on the Paul Brown Stadium project and is currently working with staff on the Great American Ballpark project.

Ms. Walker is available to all County departments interested in using small, minority, and female businesses.

## Thursday's Child — Adoption and Foster Care

## Call 513.632.6366 for information



Regina, dob 06/29/93 and James, dob 08/09/94

"Take us out to a ball game!" is what this friendly and active twosome would like. They enjoy playing together and with other children. Both children like to read books about fantasy, science fiction, and adventure. They also share the same interest in music—R&B and rap.

Regina enjoys gymnastics, basketball, football, swimming, dancing and most outdoor activities. James enjoys football, bas-

ketball, baseball, and swimming, along with most outdoor activities.

Regina likes coloring and painting. She is educationally on target and likes school. James also enjoys coloring and sketching. He looks forward to school daily.

Both Regina and James need to be placed together. They need warm and loving parents who will nurture their educational and sports interests.

## Hamilton County Pilots Weight Watchers "At Work" Program

The County Personnel Department is pleased to announce the introduction of the *Weight Watchers "At Work"* Program.

The program is designed to support the special weight loss needs and concerns of working people, and accommodate busy schedules.

### Program Benefits:

- Improved wellness. The program offers group support and professional leadership.
- Weekly, on-site meetings.

- The cost is lower than attending off-site *Weight Watchers* meetings.

On February 21, a *Weight Watchers* representative will conduct two informational meetings in Room 807 County Administration Building, 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Each session will last about 45 minutes.

To register, contact Kim Pennekamp at 946.4705. Call early because space is limited.

Following the informational meeting, interested employees can complete a pre-registration form and pay the pre-paid service fee of \$126 directly to *Weight Watchers*. (The fee covers the 12 consecutive meetings in a series.) Cash, check and major credit cards are accepted.

If there is sufficient interest, a minimum of 15 employees per series, a *Weight Watchers* facilitator will conduct meetings each Friday, 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

*Weight Watchers International* was founded in May, 1963. The company currently serves more than one million members in 24 countries, making *Weight Watchers* the world's largest provider in the field of personal weight control.

If you have questions, contact Kim Pennekamp.

## The "Green Resolution"

New Year's resolutions are often in shabby shape come February, so this year try tackling a simple "green resolution." A "green resolution" can be a small and simple change that will help you do your part to help the environment. The first step is to just "Get a Bin." Instead of pitching plastic bags, make a "green resolution" to recycle these landfill fillers. Use them as garbage can liners. Another recycling suggestion

is to take your own cloth bags to the grocery store or, to avoid plastic bags all together, just ask for paper.

Plastic bags can be taken to the Solid Waste Management District's Mixed Paper Recycling events.

The drop off sites will run from 9 a.m. to noon on the first Saturday of each month, except July. In July the event is pushed back one week to July 12.

### Locations:

Sharonville-Princeton High School Student Parking Lot, 11080 Chester Road.

Surrey Square Mall-Norwood, behind Hardee's, Montgomery Road.

Western Hills Plaza, behind Kroger, 6150 Glenway.

College Hill Kroger, Parking Lot, 1606 W. North Bend Road.

For help in keeping your "green resolution" watch Channel 9 WCPO or listen to Newsradio 700 WLW for the new commercials: "Recycle. It's good for the bottle. It's good for the can." These spots, produced by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, will keep recycling on your mind and re-energize recycling in Hamilton County.

Visit [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org) or call 946.7741 to learn more about recycling.

## Courthouse Café Reopened

The Courthouse Café reopened on January 13th.

The Café now offers a complete line of greeting cards for all seasons and events; various health care products; Amish snacks and candies; a variety of magazines; and small gift items.

New menu items will be added as a "Special of the Week." Pepsi fountain drinks are now available along with bottled beverages. Many items have been added to the menu for your dining pleasure.

Kent Parker and staff invite you to visit their newly renovated Café on the first floor of the Courthouse, between 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

## 2003 Tree Sale

The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is kicking off their 2003 Tree Sale. They will sell trees, shrubs and groundcover at a very reasonable cost.

Call for a brochure, complete the order form and return it with your check. Orders will be ready for pick-up on

April 12, 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., at the Diamond Oaks Career Center on the west side, and the Triangle Office Park in Sharonville.

For a brochure, or if you have questions, call the Soil and Water Conservation District office, 772.7645. Find SWCD's button on the Hamilton County home page or visit [www.hcswcd.org](http://www.hcswcd.org).



Hamilton County's Department of Environmental Services is looking for volunteers for our annual Waterfest event. This year, Waterfest will be held on March 18, 2003, from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at the Cincinnati Convention Center.

Waterfest is a conference for fourth and fifth grade students and is designed to educate them about water. They will look not just at water quality, but at submarines, manatees and what happens when you flush. The day involves a number of hands-on presentations, a show, and an exhibit hall that will feature a dunk-tank, flush-tank and a water cycle

## Waterfest Volunteers Needed

obstacle course. Last year over 1,800 students attended.

This event could not be held without hard work from 150 volunteers. *Would you like to be one of these volunteers?* All of our volunteers receive free breakfast, lunch and a Waterfest t-shirt for helping out.

You could lead a group of students around the event, which allows you to see many different presentations and shows. Or, you could help in the exhibit hall and watch people get soaked in the dunk-tank!

Help out at the Water Cycle Obstacle Course, leading students into the clouds, into the ground, through the water treatment plant, and many other fun places.



SCUBA diver explaining the gear to 2002 Waterfest visitors.

To volunteer check with your supervisor and complete the online form at <http://www.hcdoes.org/sw/Waterfest/application2003.htm> or call Errin Howard at 946.7737.

## "Situational Self Leadership" Coming Soon From HRD

Do you ever have trouble telling your manager how much help you need with a project? Is it difficult for you, at times, to even know exactly where to begin a new task? Do you sometimes get too much help from your boss? If you are nodding your head yes to any of these questions, "Situational Self Leadership" is meant for you.

"Situational Self Leadership" is a

two-day class that will give you skills to figure out exactly what you need in order to accomplish any part of your job, and then to communicate with your manager and/or others to get the support and direction you need. You'll also learn great strategies for helping your manager understand when you don't need a lot of support and direction on a task — when you're ready to work more independently.

Take responsibility for getting the direction and support you need. Attend "Situational Self Leadership." Watch for it coming soon from Personnel's Human Resources Development division.

If you're interested in attending the pilot session of this new class, please contact Laura Maus, 946.4708.



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) or Peter Hames (946.4432) in the County Administrator's office.