



# Hello, Hamilton County

E-News for Hamilton County Residents and Staff

March 12, 2003

Quote of the week: "The secret to success is to learn to accept the impossible, to do without the indispensable, and to bear the intolerable." — Nelson Mandela

## Service Recognition Awards to JFS Employees for 25 Years of Service

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Olivia Andrews began her employment with the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services on February 6, 1978. She has held many positions and is now an Accountant and Fiscal Analyst. Olivia has worked many years with perfect attendance. She has a pleasant attitude and is always willing to help out where needed. Olivia is shown receiving her 25 year service pin from Commissioner Dowlin.

Shelley Neidich joined the Job and Family Services staff on February 6, 1978. She is currently a Court Investigator. Shelley is a pleasure to work with, is dependable and conscientious. She won an award from the Ohio Council on Welfare Fraud in 2001 for a difficult case she investigated and ultimately prosecuted. Shelley is a definite asset to her department. Commissioner Dowlin is shown awarding Shelley's service pin.



Cheryl Tilford began her work at Job and Family Services on February 6, 1978. Cheryl has worked in the Intake Department for most of her 25 years, and is a valuable resource for many of her co-workers because of her vast knowledge. Cheryl is a highly productive and much valued employee. Cheryl's service pin was awarded by Commissioner Dowlin.

## JFS Caseworker Works to Get Vans Donated



Caseworker Susan Wolf (left) and foster mom, Michelle McDonald, stand in front of the wheelchair lift-equipped van donated to the family.

Thanks to the drive of caseworker Susan Wolf, foster mom Michelle McDonald drives foster son Dominic around in a wheelchair lift-equipped van. Wolf, a worker in Traci Marr's sex abuse investigations unit, was the prime mover in getting a van donated to the family. She worked closely with Michael Flannery of Channel 9, who labored behind the scenes to get this van and others. MC Mobility Systems supported the effort. Flannery made surprise gifts of the vans in mid-December newscasts. Kudos to Susan and Michael!

## ASPA National Recognition

Joan Gilmore, who is employed by Hamilton County's Department of Administrative Services, also serves as President of the Greater Cincinnati Chapter American Society of Public Administration (ASPA).

Joan, and the members of ASPA, received notice that the Chapter has been selected as a recipient of ASPA's 2003 Strategic Plan Implementation Award as a first prize winner in Division 2. The award, plus a \$1,000 check, will be presented during ASPA's Annual Business Meeting on March 15 in Washington, D.C.

Congratulations, Joan and members of ASPA!

## Thursday's Child — Adoption and Foster Care

**Call 513.632.6366 for information**



### Autumn ~ DOB: 11.21.92

Autumn is a cute, bright girl who is in need of a permanent family. Autumn is very athletic and loves football, basketball, soccer, baseball, volleyball, and swimming. Some other activities she enjoys are jump rope, roller-skating and riding her bike.

Autumn is developmentally and educationally on target. She likes reading fantasy and adventure books. Autumn is a good student and makes excellent grades. She enjoys making presentations at school and par-

ticipating in various school activities.

"I'd like to be a police officer so that I can help people," is what Autumn says when asked what she would like to be when she grows up.

Autumn would like to maintain contact with her siblings.

*Please, seriously consider opening your home for adoption and/or foster care.*

## Soil and Water Conservation District Staff Are Winners



Submitted by Dan Taphorn, Hamilton County SWCD, Cincinnati, OH  
Photographer: Chey Alberto, District Urban Technician

Photo shows a collapsed retaining wall due to improper drainage and erosion.

Chey Alberto, Urban Technician and Brian Bohl, Stream Specialist were winners of the International Erosion Control Association Photo Contest. These photos were on display at the 34th Annual Conference and Expo in Las Vegas February 24-28, 2003.



Photographer: Brian Bohl, District Stream Specialist

Photo shows an eroded portion of a stream bank caused by excessive rain. Three properties lost approximately 50' of their yards and the erosion threatened the homes themselves.

The entries were judged based on four categories: Before and After, Impacts of Erosion and Sediment Control; Technology in Action and The Challenge of Erosion Control. Winners not only helped to expand IECA's photo library, but they also won cash prizes. The photos may be featured on IECA educational and other promotional applications.

## One Earth . . . One Chance

This year, the 33rd anniversary of Earth Day will be celebrated starting at 1:00 p.m. on April 19, 2003, at Sawyer Point. The theme, "One Earth . . . One Chance" emphasizes the importance of environmentally-conscious decisions in our everyday lives.

Come visit your friends from the Department of Environmental Services (DOES) at their booth on Earth Day. DOES will be educating the public on the importance of Air Quality and

Solid Waste Management.

Educational booths, activities, and entertainment will energize both children and adults and provide many opportunities for family bonding. This will encourage earth-friendly choices and provide enlightenment and enjoyment at the same time.

Article submitted by Crystal Monkman, DOES Public Affairs Intern

## County Government Day

On March 4, more than 60 junior and senior high school students from throughout Hamilton County gathered in the Commissioners' Hearing Room for the Rotary Club of Cincinnati's 43rd County Government Seminar. Participants included Prosecutor Mike Allen, Commissioner Phil Heimlich, Recorder Rebecca Prem Groppe, Coroner Dr. Carl Parrott, Jr., Sheriff Simon Leis, Jr.,

and Dave Krings (below with a group of students) and staff.



## New CFO At JFS



Bill Knecht was appointed Chief Financial Officer at Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services, and will begin employment on March 13. Bill will oversee Fiscal, Information Systems, Contract Services and several quality-related functions.

JFS Director, Suzanne Burke stated, "We are extremely fortunate to have a

leader of Bill's caliber coming to our agency. He possesses a wealth of experience ..."

Bill was previously employed with Greater Cincinnati Water Works.

We welcome, Bill to Hamilton County!

## Smallpox Shots Begin

The smallpox immunization program is in progress for certain public health workers in Ohio. The Hamilton County General Health District is the lead agency in the development of the vaccination plan for the Southwest Ohio region.

For additional information visit the Health District's web site at [www.hamilton-co.org/boh](http://www.hamilton-co.org/boh), or the Center for Disease Control and Prevention at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

## Hamilton County Fine Arts Fund Campaign

You've probably seen one of the Fine Arts Fund's (FAF) ads, built around the theme, ***Guess Who's Discovered the Arts?*** These clever and humorous ads show how the power of the arts touches everyone!

Art improves grades. Art expands opportunities. Art elevates minds. Art induces dreaming. Art builds communities. Art heals wounds. Art inspires people to be more. Art has a transcendent and magical ability to touch all people, right where they stand.

Last year County employees contributed \$23,437 to FAF. Our 2003 goal is \$25,000. If we hit or exceed our goal, we will join the "Leading Firms" club. We can easily do this with your help. The FAF has a new incentive this year: The Fun Card,

offering 2 for 1 tickets to arts organizations' performances. Ask your coordinator about it.

Your support of the FAF makes our community better. Our arts organizations are an integral part of revitalizing neighborhoods, opening the minds of our youth through educational outreach programs, and offering opportunities for the entire region to come together.

We need this power tool now, more than ever, as we work toward making positive steps in our community.

The County's campaign kicked off on March 10th and will run through April 4th. Please complete your contribution form and consider increasing your gift. If you are not currently a contributor, you can complete a new contributor form today. Payroll deduc-



tion is available and your gift is tax-deductible.

A Countywide raffle will be held for those who contribute to the 2003 FAF campaign. Each contributor has an opportunity to win one of many nice gifts, including Reds and Bengals tickets.

If you have questions, call Peter Hames, 946.4432, Deloris Sinclair, 946.4427, or Sharon Booker, 946.4428.

## Ohio Bicentennial Parade

Eric Stuckey, Assistant County Administrator for Administrative Services, his children, Beth and Scott, and two Hamilton County Boy Scouts, represented Hamilton County in the opening ceremony of the Statehood Day Celebration Parade of Flags, held in Chillicothe, Ohio on March 1st. They carried our new flag.

The Hamilton County birthday card, designed by Jay Springer, Regional Planning Partnership, was on display in Chillicothe throughout the festivities.

Thanks to Eric, Beth, Scott, and the Boy Scouts for representing us!



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.