



# Hello, Hamilton County

E-News for Hamilton County Residents and Staff

April 10, 2003

Quote of the week: "Character is doing what's right when nobody's looking." — J.C. Watts, Jr., Congressman

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## Hamilton County Supports Employees Called Up For Active Duty

Several Hamilton County employees have been called to active duty status in the armed forces.

Hamilton County is supporting these employees by providing them with a pay supplement equal to the difference between their regular County pay and their military pay.

These employees can continue their health benefits by paying their normal employee contribution.

Hamilton County Commissioners passed a resolution on December 19, 2001, adopting these changes in pay and benefits.

In addition to these efforts, Hamilton County employees will have the opportunity to contribute items to the Ohio National Guard's Joint Operations to be sent to units fighting in foreign lands.

Suggested items include: chap stick, sunscreen, eye drops, disposable cameras, batteries, throat lozenges, disposable razors, personal size tissues, toilet paper, sunglasses, baby powder, baby wipes, q-tips, greeting cards, snack food (not homemade).

Look for information, which will soon be distributed, detailing how you can make a contribution.

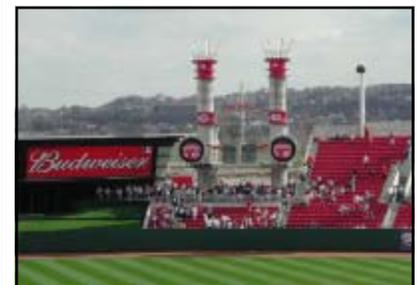
God Bless Our Troops!

**GREAT AMERICAN BALL PARK**  
Dedicated March 22, 2003  
to the Citizens of Hamilton County



<b>County Commissioners</b> John S. Dowlin Phil Heimlich Todd Portune Bob Bedinghaus (1995 - 2001) Guy Guckenberger (1992 - 1997) Tom Neyer, Jr. (1997 - 2003)	<b>Project Architects</b> HOK Sport + Venue + Event GBBN Architects
<b>County Administrator</b> David J. Krings	<b>Construction Manager</b> Hunt Construction Group, Inc.
<b>County Project Executive</b> Michael R. Sieving	<b>Project Legal Counsel</b> Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, LLP
<b>Governor, State of Ohio</b> Bob Taft	<b>Project Manager</b> Parsons Brinckerhoff Inc.
	<b>Ohio Arts and Sports Facilities Commission</b>

## Open House and Opening Day At Great American Ballpark



Left to right: Dedication plaque presented to the citizens of Hamilton County; fans gathered during Open House; Pepsi Power Stacks and the Sun/Moon Deck.

## Time For An Upgrade?

Last year, over 110 tons of computers were collected at the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District's (District) Computer Recycling Collection Event. These old computers were sent to the Ohio Prison Industries to get a new lease on life. The hard drives were erased and the computers were either mined for parts or refurbished and sent to nonprofits and schools.

This year, your old computer can get the same treatment at the third annual free computer collection event on May 29, 30, and 31, at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds. Busi-

nesses, schools, nonprofits and residents are encouraged to participate. The free event has also been expanded to include Butler, Clermont, and Northern Kentucky counties.

All interested parties must register their obsolete computer equipment in order to participate. Registration forms are available online at our website, [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org), and must be sent to the District's office by May 1, 2003.

Please visit our website for a full list of acceptable equipment or contact Christy Kellner at 946.7732 with any questions.

## 2 County Government Week Winners!

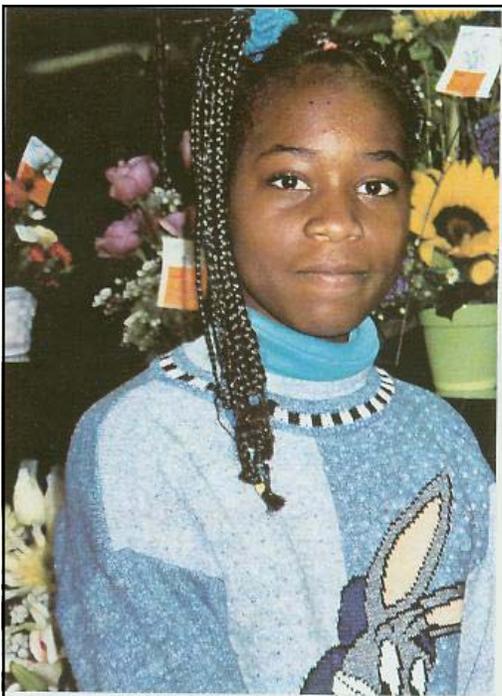
April 6-12 is County Government Week, sponsored by NACo. This year's theme is *Counties Care for Kids*. JFS is our foremost provider of services, including Child Support, Child Care and Children's Services, serving thousands of children and families.

NACo sponsored a national *Acts of Caring* competition to select and honor the top volunteer and childcare programs in the country and picked two county programs for awards that were presented on April 8, 2003 in Washington D.C. The award-winning programs are **Waterfest**, by the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District and **Every Child Succeeds**, by the Children's Hospital Medical Center.

The Board adopted a resolution congratulating those two agencies and extended a "thank you" to all county staff for the work they do, with a special nod to those involved in providing services to children in Hamilton County.

## Thursday's Child – Adoption and Foster Care

**Call 513.632.6366 for information**



**Vaughntae ~**  
**DOB: October 1990**

In addition to braiding her hair, some of Vaughntae's favorite activities at home are watching movies and reading. She is a fan of Junie B. Jones books.

When she is not listening to her favorite music, this active and outgoing young lady likes to swim, ride bikes, roller skate, and play double dutch with friends.

In school she excels in art and gym and has quite a few favorite teachers. As for adventure, Vaughntae enjoys being outside and would like to climb trees, if it were not for the bugs!

This respectful child needs an involved family who will support her therapy and her relationship with her siblings.

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

## Introducing Hamilton County E-Learning

Personnel's Human Resources Development Section is pleased to introduce a convenient new PC skills curriculum for county employees. Hamilton County E-Learning enables you to take Internet-based courses at any time, from any PC that has Internet access.

Over 150 E-Learning courses covering 29 subject areas are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. E-Learning courses include nearly all Microsoft desktop computing skills and

many technical skills.

Hamilton County E-Learning is interactive and hands-on. You actually use the skills as you learn them, which helps you remember the skills. Since you can access the courses any time and complete lessons in any order you choose, you can learn what you need when you need it.

Getting started is easy. All you need to do is:

- Get your supervisor's approval to take the E-Learning courses
- Register through your Training Coordinator
- Follow a few simple steps to log on to the E-Learning courses
- Start learning!

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## JFS Observes Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month

April marks the 20th anniversary of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month. In Ohio, the theme is "Help Paint Ohio's Future Bright! Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect."

Our department of Job and Family Services (JFS) employees are wearing blue lapel pins as part of their observance of the month. The agency also is working with local schools to commemorate the event.

JFS' Children's Services Division contributes to the effort to raise

safe and successful children. It is the expert in recognizing family dysfunction and identifying the ingredients necessary to make families healthy and whole. Children's Services alone cannot be successful in preventing child abuse and neglect. It takes a community effort.

For additional information, please see: 10 Tips to Keep Kids Safe on [www.hcjfs.hamilton-co.org](http://www.hcjfs.hamilton-co.org).



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## Hamilton County MRDD Receives 12 Exemplary Ratings

The Hamilton County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) is looking forward to a three-year accreditation from CARF (Rehabilitation Accreditation Commission) after receiving "off-the-chart" exemplary ratings during a three-day review of services and programs. CARF is an international accrediting organization that gives a seal

of approval to an organization's services, assuring families, individuals, and the general public that the organization provides high quality services and is well run.

MRDD's mission is to support people with disabilities and their families to achieve what is important to them. "The five surveyors who reviewed 18 of MRDD's service areas said that

we did better on our first survey than any organization they have ever seen," said Cheryl Phipps, Superintendent of MRDD. "We were told by the surveyors that only two percent of the hundreds of organizations surveyed each year from all over the world, receive even one exemplary rating," she said.

"We always strive to continuously improve our services, and

this outstanding review by CARF encourages us to do even better in the future," Phipps said.

**48 Nominations were made for Employee of the Year!**

**Thank you.**

## College Education Fair

Have you thought about going to college, but just didn't have the time to gather the information? Or, return to finish your degree? We know you are busy working, commuting to and from various places, taking care of family, cooking, and cleaning — without too many moments to spare!

And, that's exactly why the Hamilton County-GCCCU Education Fair is being held! We want to assist in your effort to go back to college and earn your degree. So, we've brought the Tri-States' finest regionally accredited schools to you!

You'll not only save time, but you'll have the unique opportunity to talk with representatives from local colleges and universities about the educational degree programs they offer that interest you. And, you'll have

easy access to continuing education information.

The Hamilton County Personnel Department with Thomas More College, in conjunction with Greater Cincinnati Consortium of Colleges and Universities will present the fairs on:

- Tuesday, May 6, at the County Administration Building, 138 E. Court Street lobby, 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 7, 800 Broadway Building, 800 Broadway, 16th Floor Conference Room, 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

The GCCCU Schools invited to the Education Fair events are:

University of Cincinnati  
Thomas More College  
Northern Kentucky University  
Cincinnati State Technical and Community College

Cincinnati Bible College and Seminary  
Southern State Community College  
College of Mt. St. Joseph  
The Art Academy of Cincinnati  
Miami University  
Xavier University  
Wilmington College  
Chatfield College  
Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion  
Union Institute

University Athenaeum of Ohio

For more information, e-mail [kim.pennekamp@hamilton-co.org](mailto:kim.pennekamp@hamilton-co.org).

*"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether this happens at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps on learning not only remains young, but becomes constantly more valuable."*  
— Harvey Ullman

**Thanks to all the Fine Arts  
Fund contributors.**

## 20 Years of County Service

Commissioner John Dowlin congratulated David Main, President of the Hamilton County Development Company, for serving the citizens of Hamilton County for the past 20 years.

Commissioner Dowlin also presented Mr. Main with a Hamilton County 20-year service pin.

The presentation was made at the Board of County Commissioners' meeting on Wednesday, April 9.



**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.