



# Hello, Hamilton County

E-News for Hamilton County Residents and Staff

June 12, 2003

Quote of the week: "The two hardest things to handle in life are failure and success." ~ Author Unknown

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## Dave Krings and Valerie Lemmie Co-Chair United Way Government Leaders Campaign

Speaking to county and city leaders, County Administrator Dave Krings and City Manager Valerie Lemmie agreed that now is a good time to begin thinking about the services provided by United Way agencies. Each of us has benefited, or we know someone who has benefited, from the services of one of the dozens of United Way agencies.

Those directly affected by the events of 9/11 were offered phenomenal assistance by several United Way agencies.

Locally, United Way dollars are helping agencies focus

on helping people to become self-sufficient; teaching and assisting people to live healthy; creating and maintaining vibrant neighborhoods and communities; and helping children thrive.

If you are interested in serving as the 2003 United Way campaign coordinator for your office, talk to your department head today. Although we still have some time before the county's campaign begins, start planning for a successful office campaign. If you are not interested in serving in this

capacity, but want to support the work of the United Way agencies, begin now thinking about becoming a new donor or increasing your current donation.

We'll keep you updated about the upcoming Hamilton County campaign.

"Your contribution makes the difference."



### Correction:

The County's on-line public auction e-mail address was incorrect in the May 29 issue. The correct address is: [auctionsurplus@JFS.hamilton-co.org](mailto:auctionsurplus@JFS.hamilton-co.org).

## Another Reds' Ticket Drawing For Hamilton County Suite

The citizens of Hamilton County, once again, were offered the opportunity to enter their name for a Reds' ticket drawing at the County's Great American Ball Park suite. Six names were drawn by Amy Nickerson, Rob Fredericks, and Kathleen Hines (pictured) and six winners and their guests attended the Reds vs. Yankees game on June 3rd.

The next drawing will be held at the Commissioners' meeting on June 18th, for the July games.



## Basic Land Use

The Ohio State University Extension will present its Basic Land Use Tools Conference on Friday, June 20, 8:00 a.m., at the Springdale Community Center. The Land Use Tool Conference is a first for the Southwest region of the State. Several Extension State and District Specialists, as well as speakers from the Hamilton County Soil and Water District and the City of Cincinnati Fire District, will be featured.

The workshop will provide relevant and practical information on selected land-use and zoning topics of local concern. It is oriented toward local

elected and appointed officials, and administrative personnel who are directly involved in the development and implementation of land-use plans, zoning enforcement and administrative policies in their communities.

A registration fee of \$60 includes all workshop materials and lunch. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Deborah Carney, 946.8994 or carney.53@osu.edu.



## Clean Air A-Thon

The Department of Environmental Services will host the Third Annual Clean Air A-Thon on **Saturday, June 14**, at Yeatman's Cove.

The Clean Air A-Thon is a 5K run/walk and Family Fun Fest, including a kids fun run, scavenger hunt, kids games and prizes, door prizes, educational booths, an alternative fuel vehicle display and much more!

The agenda for the day begins in the morning with:

7:30-9:00 Race Day Registration/T-shirt pickup

8:00 Family activities and booths open

8:45 Aerobic warm-up  
 9:00 5K run begins  
 9:01 5K walk begins  
 10:00 Awards ceremony  
 10:20 Kids Fun Run  
 10:40 Door prizes  
 12:00 Family activities conclude

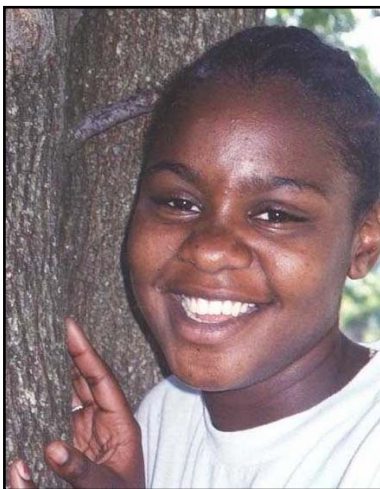


Race day registration is \$18 and includes a t-shirt, while supplies last. Refreshments will be provided.

The Family Fun Fest is free and open to the public!

## Thursday's Children – Adoption and Foster Care

**Call 513.632.6366 for information**



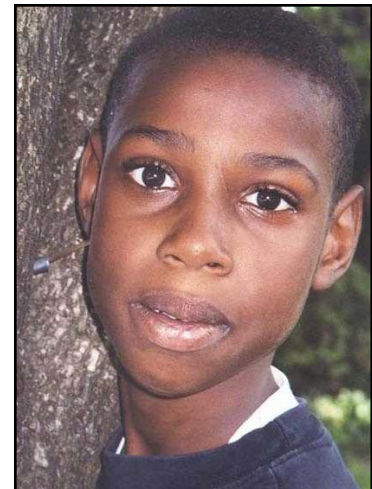
**Elonda, dob 10/05/87**

Elonda is a good artist. She can draw free-hand very well and likes to color. She needs a family to help her in special education classes. She works hard and makes very good grades.



**leasha, dob 09/15/96**

Quiet and pleasant, leasha is very courteous and respectful. She is a typical child who likes watching movies, playing video games, board games, and playing with her dolls.



**Jerome, dob 07/09/93**

Jerome is a handsome young man with an engaging smile who tries hard to succeed in school. He enjoys playing basketball, and also likes playing with action figures, board games and watching movies.

Elonda, leasha, and Jerome are a sibling group of active children. A family that will be supportive, patient, understanding and willing to offer them a permanent home will be best for this trio.

## Take Action At Home To Reduce Risk of West Nile Virus

The return of warm weather also means the return of mosquitoes. There are steps you can take now and throughout the summer to help reduce the mosquito population and the risk of West Nile virus (WNV), a viral disease that can be transmitted to humans by mosquitoes.

Most infections associated with WNV are mild, with symptoms that include swollen lymph nodes, skin rash, fever, headache, and body aches. Severe infections can lead to encephalitis or meningitis and may be marked by neck stiffness, disorientation, convulsions, muscle weakness and, in rare cases, death. People over the age 50 and anyone with a weakened immune system are at risk for developing a severe infection.

The General Health District offers the following tips to help eliminate mosquito-breeding sites around your home and avoid mosquito bites:

- ◆ Remove standing water from your property. Check old tires, pet bowls, buckets, flower pots, children’s toys, or similar items that could hold stagnant water and become mosquito-breeding

sites.

- ◆ Change the water in bird baths every 3-4 days.
- ◆ Apply mosquito larvicide, sometimes called mosquito dunks, to areas of standing water that cannot be drained. Dunks are environmentally safe and will not harm pets.
- ◆ Keep grass cut short and shrubbery trimmed.
- ◆ Make sure windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair tears or holes.
- ◆ Wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing – long sleeve shirts, pants, jackets.
- ◆ Be aware of peak biting periods – night and early morning are peak periods.
- ◆ Use appropriate insect repellants on exposed skin. Most effective repellants contain DEET (N-diethyl-metaoluamide). Carefully read all instructions on the label.

While the risk of West Nile virus remains low for most residents, it is important to remember these simple

steps we can all take to reduce the risk.

Health District staff is working to reduce the incidence of WNV by trapping mosquitoes and submitting them for WNV testing; applying environmentally safe larvicide in stagnant water that contains mosquito larvae; and increasing public awareness.

Staff is also working closely with colleagues at more than 15 area agencies, including health departments, veterinary associations, and park districts, as part of the South West Area Regional Mosquito Task Force (SWARM). The group meets monthly to share surveillance information and discuss the most effective ways to reduce the incidence of mosquito-borne diseases.

For more information on West Nile virus, please contact the General Health District at 946.7832, or visit the web site at [www.hamilton-co.org/boh](http://www.hamilton-co.org/boh).



Tim Ingram is the Hamilton County Health Commissioner.

## Meet Jessica Hayes

Jessica Hayes is the new Staffing Specialist for the Personnel Department.

As part of Jessica’s position, she will coordinate the County’s Volunteer Program. If you have questions or suggestions about the program, contact Jessica at 946.4729.

Welcome to Hamilton County, Jessica!



## Good News – A Promotion! Yippee!

Sharon Booker, the main source of *Hello, Hamilton County* energy, was recently promoted to the position Executive Assistant County Administrator. She will continue to report to Dave Krings, and will work on communications/public relations projects for the county, as well as special projects assigned by Mr. Krings.

Sharon recently graduated from Wilberforce University with a B.S. in Organizational Management. She has been employed in the County Administrator’s office 26.5 years.

Congratulations, Sharon!

## Weight Watchers At Work Program

Ever hear of the 98 pound weakling who appeared in Charles Atlas body building ads? Well, eight women in the Regional Planning and Rural Zoning Departments worked diligently over the past 12 weeks to rid the 8th floor of that 98 pound weakling. And, they are walking lighter as a result!

By taking advantage of the county's Weight Watchers at Work program, these eight women have shed 98 pounds not only by watching their diets, but also with an exercise program. Pounds come off easier that way. Three times per week they use their morning break for a 15 minute workout with light hand-held weights. The other two days they walk vigorously during their lunch hour.

The camaraderie of this group for the Friday afternoon Weight Watchers

"weigh-in" was evidenced in the support for each other; no matter if that week saw a loss or gain in pounds.

A special thanks goes out to the County Commissioners for bringing Weight Watchers at Work to the county, to County Recorder Rebecca Groppe for her persistence in introducing the program and to Diane Marcus, the Weight Watchers' leader, who always shares words of encouragement and wisdom!

This article was submitted anonymously, but "it's gotta' be someone on the 8th floor who's skinnier than she was 12 weeks ago!"

For more information about the Weight Watchers at Work program, contact Kim Pennekamp, in the Personnel Department, 946.4705.

## Summer Schedule

The Board of County Commissioners are now on summer schedule. Meetings are held as follows:

### Monday Staff Meetings – 9:30 a.m.

June 16  
June 30  
July 14  
July 28  
August 4  
August 18

### Wednesday Public Meetings – 9:30 a.m.

June 18  
July 2  
July 16  
July 30 (County Fairgrounds)  
August 6  
August 20  
September 3

The weekly schedule resumes September 8.

## Thanks For Your Fine Arts Fund Contributions!

The final tally is in . . .  
Hamilton County employees  
raised a total of  
**\$23,651, an increase over 2002,**  
in our 2003 Fine Arts Fund Campaign!



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. To subscribe or unsubscribe visit [www.hamilton-co.org](http://www.hamilton-co.org) and click on the "Newsletter" green button.