



Hello, Hamilton County

E-News for Hamilton County Residents and Staff

June 30, 2003

Quote of the week: "What I fear most about stress is not that it kills, but that it prevents one from savoring life."
~ Jean-Louis Seven-Schreiber

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NACo Gives Hamilton County 6 Achievement Awards

The National Association of Counties (NACo) presented Hamilton County with six Achievement Awards, granted for effective and creative programming.

The Achievement Award winners will be recognized at NACo's Annual Awards Reception during the 2003 Annual Conference in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin. Commissioner John Dowlin will receive the awards on behalf of Hamilton County.

The NACo Achievement Award program is non-competitive and recognizes counties for improving the management of, and services provided by county

government. Programs, such as our award winners improve service delivery, achieve greater cost efficiency, provide topnotch customer service, and help to develop a better trained work force.

Awards are made in categories, ranging from Historic Preservation to Volunteerism. Counties and state associations of counties are eligible to apply.

The 2003 Hamilton County winning programs include:

- ◆ A Comprehensive Workplace Violence Curriculum
Personnel Department

- ◆ Countywide Town Meeting
Regional Planning
 - ◆ The Planning Partnership-Stormwater Management Program
Regional Planning
 - ◆ An Electronic Procurement Process and System Implementation
Purchasing Department
 - ◆ JFSWEB, The Agency's Intranet
Job and Family Services
 - ◆ Green Products Expo
Environmental Services
- Congratulations to all!



Help us spread the news. Submit your departmental news articles to: Sharon.booker@hamilton-co.org for Hello, Hamilton County.

Surplus Online Auction Closes Bidding For The Day At Nearly \$6,000 For The Week

Hamilton County's Online Auction registered over 1,000 users in the first week of operation. Revenue for the first 15-day auction totaled nearly \$1,000.

Items in the second week of the auction included, a van, hay wagon, tractor, coffeemaker, PCs, and copiers.

The projected closing bid total was \$4,404. The

actual closing bids totaled \$5,588. This is another example of how Hamilton County continues to offer its citizens premiere programs that lead to cost reductions.

Check today for items listed in the next auction by visiting the Hamilton County home page at www.hamilton-co.org and click on the green "Online Auction" button.

Over \$300k Collected

A total of \$333,217 was collected from nonpaying absent parents in the months January through May, as a result of televised broadcasts and tip-referrals. Collections in 2002 totaled \$606,246.

The largest sum payment made on a case is \$50,790. Cumulative statistics show that of 584 absent parents, 369 payments were the result of absent parents being featured on television. The remaining 215 payments were the result of telephone tips.

Kudos to JFS staff and the citizens of Hamilton County.

June Face-to-Face Forum A Success

On Thursday, June 19, Hamilton County held its second *Face-to-Face Forum*. The *Forum* gives vendors registered with the county's Small Business Program the opportunity to directly market their business to representatives of several county departments.

Thirty-three small businesses registered to take advantage of this opportunity. Eleven county agencies were represented by almost thirty people. The *Forum* was held at the Paul Brown Stadium, which was converted to a trade fair atmosphere.

Bernice L. Walker, Esq., Director of Hamilton County's Small, Minority and Female Business Development said, "We received favorable comments from the vendors and the county representatives who attended."

The *Forum* was designed as a three-hour event during which vendors marketed to the county, and discussed their goods and services with other small business representatives.

Buyers representing the following departments and agencies attended.

- Communication Center

- Environmental Services
- Job and Family Services
- Personnel
- Public Works
- Alcohol and Drug Addiction Board
- MRDD
- County Engineer
- Health District
- County Prosecutor
- River City Correctional Center

For more information about the Small Business Program, contact Bernice at 946.4323 or visit www.hamilton-co.org.

Thursday's Child — Adoption and Foster Care



Call 513.632.6366 for information

Active one minute and motionless the next, Wyatt's level of activity fluctuates every day.

From toys to grass, he is stimulated through touching and chewing on objects. On occasion, he smiles and giggles with delight.

Wyatt is truly a special child who needs a special family.

Please consider adoption or foster care. There are children who need your care. Call today to learn more about the adoption and foster parent process, or visit www.hamilton-co.org and click on Job and Family Services which is listed under County Agencies.

Snack Mix Recalled Due To Undeclared Cashews

The General Health District advises residents that Golden Stream Quality Foods, of Fisher, Indiana, is voluntarily recalling its eight ounce packages of Island Crunch Mix because some packages may contain cashews without listing them among the ingredients.

The Island Crunch Mix was distributed to retail stores in several states, including Ohio. The recalled product was distributed in eight ounce, pre-printed plastic stand-up bags that carry a "best by date" between 10-03-03 and 05-05-04.

People who have allergies to cashews run the risk of serious or life threatening allergic reaction if they consume the recalled product. No illnesses have been reported to date in connection with this problem. The recall was initiated after routine

quality inspections discovered the product, which contains cashews, was distributed in packaging that did not reveal the presence of cashews.

Consumers who have purchased the recalled packages of Island Crunch Mix are encouraged to return them to the place of purchase for a full refund. Consumers with questions should contact Golden Stream Quality Foods at 317.567.2726.

For information about other foods recently recalled, visit www.hamilton-co.org and click on Board of Health located under County Agencies.



1st Place Winner

County Engineer, William Brayshaw announced that Rick Feller, Traffic Operations Foreman, won first place in the Ohio Invitational Snowplow/Equipment Rodeo competition.

Contestants for this annual event are winners of various Ohio municipalities' snow rodeos.



Other contestants consist of drivers from varying states. This year, they gathered in Dublin, Ohio to compete for the championship on a course specifically designed to test the drivers' skills.

Congratulations to Rick and the County Engineer's Department. We are proud of you.

Hamilton County's Successful Bond Sale And Refinancing Saves Millions!

Hamilton County closed on the sale of bonds for its Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati. The closing – for new capital and for the refinancing of previous debt – took place on June 25.

Through the negotiated sale, the county was able to attain an outstanding interest rate of 3.963% on debt totaling a little over \$215M.

"This is fantastic news," stated Dave Krings, County Administrator. "The bond sale allowed Hamilton County to fund \$1 million of MSD projects, refund

\$128,555,000 of selected Series 1993 and 1995 outstanding bonds, make a deposit to the debt service reserve fund and pay all costs of issuance. Through the bond sale, we are able to benefit from a competitive interest rate, refund outstanding bonds and pay toward the debt service reserve fund. In addition, we were able to pay the costs of issuing the bonds. Successful bond sales and refinancing efforts, such as this, speak to our strong financial management in Hamilton County."

The refunding's total net present value savings is \$14.4 million.

Congratulations and thank you to the team that worked diligently to effect the sale and refinancing in order to save the county millions of dollars.



Sheriff's Search Dogs Win Competition



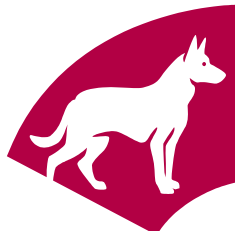
Sheriff Simon L. Leis Jr.'s bomb squad canines competed earlier this week in the U.S. Police Canine Association's regional explosive detection contest in Middletown, Ohio.

"With heightened security in this country at all kinds of events, these dogs and their handlers are an invaluable asset," said the Sheriff's spokesman Steve Barnett. "The dogs are trained to detect a variety of explosive materials."

According to Barnett, bomb dogs must learn to remain calm. Any aggressive behavior could trigger a located bomb and that could be a catastrophe.

The winning pair of canines were Court

Services Officer Dan Kissing's Belgian Milionis, whose is named Rocco, and Court Services Officer Steve Fischesser's yellow Labrador retriever, Aspen.



Aspen trotted off with a first-place trophy for explosive detection and two other first-place trophies for

building and vehicle searches. Rocco won second-place medals in each of those same categories.

Congratulations to Sheriff Leis, Officer Fischesser, Officer Kissing, Aspen and Rocco for an award winning representation of Hamilton County.

Summer Schedule

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

Monday Staff Meetings — 9:30 a.m.

- July 7
- July 14
- July 28
- August 4
- August 18

Wednesday Public Meetings — 9:30 a.m.

- July 9
- July 16
- July 30 (County Fairgrounds)
- August 6
- August 20
- September 3

The weekly schedule resumes September 8.

Got News?

If you have County news you would like included in *Hello, Hamilton County*, send an e-mail to Sharon Booker at sharon.booker@hamilton-co.org. The deadline for submission of articles: 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month.



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 and click on the "Newsletter" green button.