



# Hello, Hamilton County

E-News for Hamilton County Residents and Staff

July 15, 2003

“We will serve the residents of Hamilton County by providing the best and most responsive county government in America.”  
— Hamilton County Vision

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## New Public Safety Radio System For Hamilton County Completed

A special ceremony will be held July 16, 2003 to announce completion of Phase II of the new, state-of-the-art Hamilton County Public Safety Communications System (HCPSCS). The digital 800 MHz radio system uses Motorola's advanced digital technologies and provides superior two-way communications capability to public safety agencies across the County.

The HCPSCS replaces the old fire and EMS radio system. It is the first communications system available to all public safety agencies in the county. Users with a radio on the system will be able to talk to anyone on the new county system.

“Keeping our communities

and families safe plays a critical role in our effort to provide a reliable emergency communications system” Commissioner John Dowlin said. “This state-of-the-art system gives law enforcement and public safety organizations all over Hamilton County a valuable tool to help assure the protection and public health of the people in our neighborhoods.”

In order to help communities transition to the new radio system, the Commissioners provided nearly 2,000 radios, at no cost, to the participating jurisdictions. Over 100 public safety agencies, serving 42 municipalities, are expected to use the new radio system.

Chief John Vail, president of the Hamilton County Fire

Chiefs Association, said, “The July 16th dedication ceremony will celebrate the first time in our county's history that police, fire and EMS will be able to speak to one another on the same radio system. This will greatly enhance day-to-day emergency communications and will have tremendous value when multiple agencies are responding to major events or disasters.”



For more information contact the Communications Center Director, William Hinkle or Greg Wenz, Operations Director at 825.2170.

### Correction:

The previous issue misquoted Dave Krings saying the MSD bond sale allowed Hamilton County to fund \$1 million of MSD projects. The sale allowed funding of **\$100 million** of MSD projects.

## ADAS Board CEO Selected To Attend Harvard Executive Education Program

Sherry Knapp, Ph.D., CEO of the Hamilton County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ADAS) board, has been selected to participate in the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

During the three-week program, designed for senior-level executives with state, county, and local governments, Dr. Knapp will receive train-

ing that helps officials assess the tasks they face in managing results-driven government agencies. Participants will explore the interrelationship between citizens and government; examine ethical and professional responsibilities of leadership; and exchange ideas with faculty and participants from diverse backgrounds.

Congratulations, Dr. Knapp.



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

### Safety Tip

A recent Downtown Cincinnati Inc. e-mail reported a suspect was apprehended after being seen breaking into a car. According to Cincinnati Police Capt. James L. Whalen, theft from autos is very easy and can be done quickly and quietly.

The best way to reduce or eliminate theft from autos is to leave nothing of value visible. Thieves will not break into a car to see what is in there. They break into cars because they see an item they want.

Spread this safety tip to help reduce this crime.

### Confidentiality Notice Now Appended To E-mail Messages Sent From The County

In compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), language was developed to be appended to e-mail leaving the county from the new email server.

HIPPA calls for standardization of electronic patient health, administrative and financial data; unique health identifiers for individuals, employers, health plans and health care providers; security standards protecting the confidentiality and integrity of individually identifiable health information, past, present and future.

Organizations affected by HIPPA requirements include health care providers, health plans, employers, public health authorities, life insurers, clearinghouses, billing agencies, information system vendors, service organizations, and universities.

The following language was approved at the June Information Processing Advisory Committee meeting to be appended to all e-mail leaving from the county:

*This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain private, confidential and/or privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.*

This language may be altered based upon the Prosecutor's review.

### Thursday's Child — Adoption and Foster Care

### Call 513.632.6366 for information



**Arnella ~ date of birth: 01-02-1994**

Arnella is an intelligent, healthy, likable girl who would make a great addition to any family. She has a pleasant personality and excellent manners.

Arnella likes school and makes good grades. She is artistically inclined and shows great ability in drawing, coloring, sculpting and painting. She takes delight in dancing and is interested in becoming a ballerina when she grows up.

During the summer, Arnella enjoys being outdoors. She likes swimming, jump rope, hiking, four square, hop scotch, climbing trees, dodge ball, riding her bicycle, tag and roller skating. Arnella needs to maintain contact with her siblings.

## MSD To Host 2003 Five Cities Plus Conference

The Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati is hosting the Five Cities Plus Conference on August 6-8 at the Marriott Kingsgate Conference Center.

The Five Cities Plus received its name from the five founding cities — Cincinnati, Columbus, Indianapolis, Louisville and St. Louis. After its inception in 1989, ten additional “plus” municipalities and agencies have attended and participated in the conference, including Northern Kentucky Sanitation District No. 1; Butler County; Lexington, Kentucky; Evansville, Indiana; Bloomington, Indiana; Ft. Wayne, Indiana; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Nashville, Tennessee; Wheeling, West Virginia; and ORSANCO.

The purpose of the conference is to discuss water quality issues facing

Midwestern cities of similar size. Participants at previous conferences discussed topics concerning new or innovative wastewater management approaches, new regulations, watershed management and applied water pollution control technology.

Topics considered for the 2003 conference include: facility security, design-build, trenchless technology, pretreatment issues, regulatory issues, water quality, among other topics. Each session will be facilitated by a session manager.

The audience is expected to draw 250 to 300 people from municipal and regulatory agencies involved with wastewater collection and treatment systems.

For conference information, contact Rosalind Dubose, 244.1300.

## FACTS Training at JFS

On July 28, Hamilton County Job and Family Services begins training for approximately 350 Children’s Services employees to use the new Family and Child Tracking System (FACTS) computer system.

FACTS is scheduled to go online September 22.

The sophisticated system will:

- Support core business practices.
- Produce accurate data to satisfy state and federal regulations.
- Automate paperwork for Children’s Services staff.
- Reduce data entry.

The system is currently in place in Cuyahoga County.

If you are interested in learning more about the training, call 946.2195.

## Joan Gilmore Returns to JFS As MCSA Financial Manager

Joan, after leaving Administrative Services, returned to Job and Family Services (JFS) last month to play a key role in the county’s effort to control costs and improve outcomes for children and families served by more than one agency.

Joan previously worked in Fiscal and Child Support at JFS. She is now the new Multi-County System Agencies financial manager. Joan works on behalf of JFS, Juvenile Court, Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services boards, who share funding her position. The agencies partner with Hamilton Choices in an intensive, community-based, wrap-around program for kids and fami-

lies who have multiple problems.

“It’s great to be back,” said Joan. “I look forward to working with the people involved to tackle the formidable challenges that lay ahead. This is such an important project for the agency and those we serve.”



## Friday Group

Congratulations to the Friday, 12:30 p.m. Weight Watchers group. In just five weeks, the group has shed 189.9 pounds. Way to go!

The *Weight Watchers* “At Work” program series is fun, challenging, and effective. Since its inception in February, many of the participants have had success stories.

The program offers improved wellness, weekly, on-site meetings, and is offered to employees at a cost lower than attending an off-site meeting. If you would like more information about the “At Work” program, contact Kim Pennekamp, 946.4705.



Go for a walk at lunch.

## HCDC Financed Henke Wine Wins Award

An SBA 504 loan, consisting of 85% financing from the Hamilton County Development Company (HCDC) and Fifth Third Bank, allowed Henke Wine



Joe and Joan Henke of Henke Wine, LLC

to purchase a building on Harrison Avenue in Westwood and stretch monthly payments over a 20-year period. This is a considerable advantage over con-

ventional financing.

The "Winery with Food" began in Winton Place and quickly earned a reputation as a fine establishment. The loan and the move have created nine new jobs at Henke, and now that the company is in a larger facility, it accommodates more customers than ever.

Henke Wine, which began in 1996, was honored in April with a bronze medal at the 2003 Cincinnati International Wine Festival, for its Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Cabernet Franc blend, *Vendange A Trois*.

To learn more about Henke Wine, visit [www.henkewine.com](http://www.henkewine.com). To find out how an SBA 504 loan may help your business, contact Angela Howard or Andrew Young, HCDC, 631.8292.

## Summer Schedule

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

### Monday Staff Meetings — 9:30 a.m.

July 28  
August 4  
August 18

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

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

The weekly schedule resumes September 8.

## The friendly officer wants to know, "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](mailto:sharon.booker@hamilton-co.org).  
Next deadline for submission of articles:  
Monday, July 21.



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 green "Newsletter" button.