



Hello, Hamilton County

E-News for Hamilton County Residents and Staff

July 31, 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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Community COMPASS Wins National Award

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has named the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) the winner of a national award for work with the Community COMPASS (Comprehensive Master Plan and Strategies) for Hamilton County.

The Community COMPASS Countywide Town Meeting received the 2003 Achievement Award and special recognition as “Best of Category” — the most outstanding model program in planning submitted to the awards competition.

RPC’s Planning Partnership convened the Town Meet-

ing in January 2002, as part of the visioning process of Community COMPASS. More than 1,300 Hamilton County citizens gathered in the Cincinnati Music Hall ballroom to set the course of Hamilton County’s future. Results of that meeting are now guiding the development of Hamilton County’s comprehensive plan and implementation strategies.

NACo’s Achievement Award Program recognizes counties for improving the management of and services provided by county government. Since the inception of the program in 1970,

the Achievement Award Program has honored county government initiatives that have improved service delivery, achieved greater cost efficiency, provided finer customer service, and helped to develop a better-trained work force.

In a statement by Jacqueline Byers, NACo’s Director of Research, “This year, more than ever, we saw programs where county governments were trying to do more with less. I am constantly amazed at the innovation of America’s counties.”

Congratulations to Ron Miller and the RPC.



Actress Jennifer Love Hewitt enjoys a LightVision Lollipop at the 2003 Vanity Fair Oscar Party

Photo courtesy of www.jlove.us

LightVision Confections’ Lollipop Goes to Vanity Fair Oscar Party

LightVision Confections, located in the Hamilton County Development Company’s Business Center, created a lollipop featuring holographic images of the 2003 Oscar nominees. Jennifer Love Hewitt, pictured, was seen licking this edible treat at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party.

LightVision Confections has been located in the Business Center since 2000.



Help us spread the news.

Submit your departmental news articles to:

Sharon.booker@hamilton-co.org
for

Hello, Hamilton County.

Sex Offender Notifications

The Sheriff's Office makes every effort to notify residents when a sex offender moves into a neighborhood. It is for that reason notifications have been received by several departments located in county buildings.

If your department receives a sex offender notification postcard, send the postcard to Ralph Linne, Director of Facilities, Courthouse Room B-95. He will post it in the building.

You may contact Ralph at 946.5000.

August Marks National Child Support Month

National Child Support Month, designated for August, 2003, offers an excellent opportunity to:

- ♦ Educate the public; and
- ♦ Recognize child support technicians at Hamilton County Job and Family Services (HCJFS) for the commendable job they do responding to a high volume of cases.

HCJFS Child Support:

1. Establishes and enforces child support orders;

2. Establishes paternity (and administers paternity tests);
3. Modifies child support orders;
4. Provides other customer services; and
5. Enforces spousal support.

The local child support system includes HCJFS, Juvenile and Domestic Relations courts, the county Prosecutor's office and the county Sheriff.

The goal of the system is to ensure that all chil-

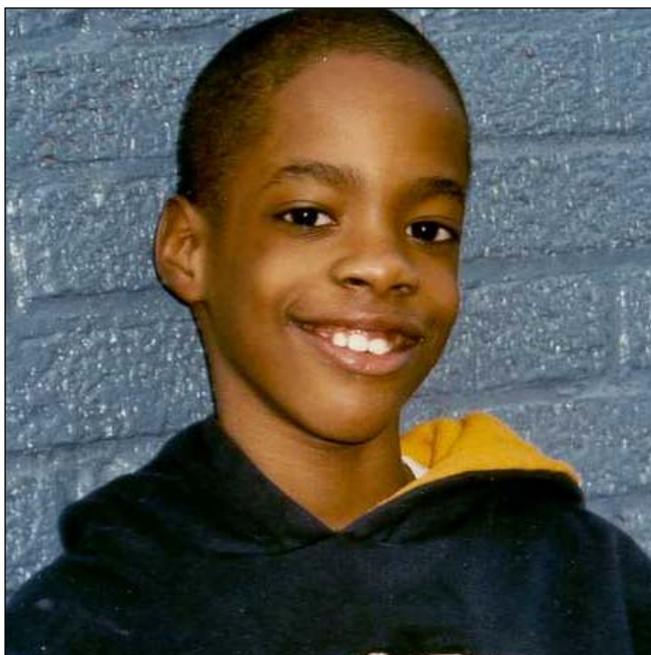
dren receive financial support from both their parents.



To learn more about Child Support, visit www.hcjfs.hamilton-co.org and click on Clients/Child Support.

Thursday's Child – Adoption and Foster Care

Call 513.632.6366 for information



Demetric – DOB 06.19.92

Adorable and affectionate, Demetric's loving disposition captures the hearts of everyone he comes in contact with.

Demetric is an avid sports fan. He spends a lot of his time playing football, soccer, basketball, baseball, volleyball, swimming, running track and gymnastics. When he grows up he wants to be a professional football player. While indoors Demetric's favorite past times are playing video games, board games, card games and watching action movies. He also enjoys school.

Demetric needs to maintain contact with his siblings. He would do well in a family that could help him with his homework, be patient and nurture him to help reach his full potential.

Do Your Share For Cleaner Air!

Each morning, from April 1 through October 31, the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services (HCDOES) staff retrieves and reviews monitoring data and weather forecast information. If unhealthy levels of ozone concentrations are expected, a conference call is scheduled by HCDOES, in cooperation with local meteorologists and the National Weather Service, to determine if conditions are favorable to issue a smog alert. If the data indicates that ozone levels may exceed an air quality index level of 100, a smog alert is issued.

What is smog? Ground-level ozone, a major element of smog, is formed by a chemical reaction between volatile organic compounds and oxides of nitrogen in the presence of sunlight. Sources of the compound and oxides includes: automobiles, trucks, buses, large industry, gasoline dispensing facilities, print shops, paints and cleaners, lawn and garden equipment.

Ozone concentrations can reach unhealthy levels when the weather is hot and sunny with relatively light winds.

During a smog alert businesses and individuals are asked to avoid activities that contribute to the formation of ground level ozone, such as driving, refueling vehicles, lawn mowing, and like activities. Even at relatively low levels, ozone may cause inflammation and irritation of the respiratory tract, particularly during physical activity. The resulting symptoms can include breathing difficulty, coughing, and throat irritation.



Breathing ozone can affect lung function and worsen asthma attacks. Ozone can increase the susceptibility of the lungs to infections, allergens, and other air pollutants.

Here's how you can help:

- ☀ Ride the bus! (Metro, 621-4455 – TANK, 331-TANK)
- ☀ Rideshare or Van Pool (241-RIDE)
- ☀ Walk, ride or rollerblade on short trips
- ☀ Combine and limit unnecessary vehicle trips
- ☀ Keep your vehicle properly maintained
- ☀ Use gasoline-powered lawn equipment after 6 p.m.
- ☀ Refuel after 6 p.m. and do not top off
- ☀ Conserve electricity and turn up your thermostat for air conditioners
- ☀ Spread the word!

Visit the HCDOES website at www.hcdoes.org and click on air quality management division, then smog information or contact Sarah Dowers at 946.7748 or sarah.dowers@hamilton-co.org.

MRDD First To Receive Five Year State Accreditation

The Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) has issued its Final Accreditation Report on the Hamilton County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, and has accredited the agency for five years.

Hamilton County is the first board to receive a five-year Ohio Department of MRDD accreditation. This news comes on the heels of the recent three-year accreditation the agency received from the Rehabilitation Accreditation Commission.

Accreditation involves a review of 27 standards within four domains:

- ◆ Health and welfare

- ◆ Patient rights
- ◆ Service planning and delivery
- ◆ Administration

Each standard encompasses numerous criteria.

At the Hamilton County Board of MRDD, best practices were also reviewed in:

- ◆ Organizational administration
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Employment opportunities
- ◆ Community living



Hamilton County MRDD offers services and programs to benefit adults and children with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. Hamilton County has realized for many years that these special citizens need assistance so that each individual can develop to his or her full potential.

Small Business Program All-Stars Celebration



"We have made progress in the five years the program has been in place and it's appropriate to show our appreciation," stated Ms. Walker.



On July 15, at the Great American Ball Park Diamond Club, Hamilton County recognized contractors who helped achieve 25.7% small business participation on the Great American Ball Park and related construction projects, and 66.1% on the Parking and Infrastructure Improvements project. Congratulations to Bernice Walker, Small, Minority and Female Business Development Program Director.



"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. Next deadline for submission of articles: **Monday, August 11.**

As a new employee and member of Ohio PERS, you have 180 days to select one of the three OPERS Retirement Plans.



**How can you learn more?
Visit www.opers.org
or call
1-866-OPERS-4-U
(representatives are available
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.)**

Summer Schedule

The Board of County Commissioners is on summer schedule.

Monday Staff Meetings – 9:30 a.m.

August 4
August 18

Wednesday Public Meetings – 9:30 a.m.

August 6
August 20
September 3

The weekly schedule resumes September 8.



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 green "Newsletter" button.