



# Hello, Hamilton County

E-News for Hamilton County Residents and Staff

September 19, 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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## Hamilton County Planning Session

The Board of County Commissioners brought together elected officials, appointed authorities, department heads, and top management staff on Monday, August 25, 2003, at Paul Brown Stadium for the county's annual Planning Session. Seventy participants were registered, representing 39 county departments.

John Nalbandian, Chair and Professor of the Department of Public Administration, University of Kansas, served as the facilitator for the day.

The High Performance Governing Body was the topic of the morning session.

Discussions included obstacles, such as conflicting values and conditions that make public policymaking difficult; values; efficiency and politics; working conditions; methods for reducing uncertainty among staff; and characteristics of politics and administration. The morning session was concluded with steps we could take to assure that we are a high performance governing body.

The afternoon session divided the participants into four groups — general government, environment and economic development, health and human services, and public safety.

Each group was given the task of determining, 1) what should the county do more of; 2) what should the county do less of; and 3) how can departments and jurisdictions collaborate more fully and jointly to achieve these goals.

The all day session provided participants with new information which will be helpful in the workplace and also offered an opportunity to share ideas.

Each year our planning session is geared toward helping us fulfill our county vision — providing the best and most responsive county government in America.

### JFS Has A More User Friendly Web Site

The Department of Job and Family Services has a more user friendly web site. Please encourage those interested in child support, foster care, and other services to visit [www.hcjfs.org](http://www.hcjfs.org).

## Mattie the Bloodhound

Mattie is a blue and tan bloodhound weighing 75 pounds. She began training with Sheriff's Patrol Officer Troy



Swearingen at just five weeks old. Troy and Mattie are available for both missing persons cases, as well as old trails in criminal matters. In addition, Mattie can be used for demonstrations at public events.

## Aspen the Yellow Labrador

Aspen is one of the Hamilton County Sheriff's sniffing dogs in the bomb squad, who recently participated in the U.S. Police Canine Association's regional explosive detection contest. Aspen, handled by Court Services Officer Steve Fischesser, won a first-place trophy for explosive detection and two other first-place trophies for building and vehicle searches.



## Central Riverfront Garage Dedication

Hamilton County officials celebrate the opening of the new Central Riverfront Garage.



The new Central Riverfront Garage serves as the foundation for the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and has added 604 parking spaces to the riverfront. Thanks to a stellar project team, the garage was completed on time and under budget. The project goal to increase small business enterprise (SBE) participation was achieved with more than 60% SBE participation. The facility is open to the public; parking rates are \$70/month and \$4/day.

## Facilities Department Training Event

The Department of County Facilities hosted a free 10-hour General Industrial Safety Training presented by the Public Employment Risk Reduction Program (PERRP), a division of the Ohio Department of Commerce. Tim Clay and Mike Drakulich were the instructors. A total of 21 employees attended the training. Maggie Dozier of County Facilities estimates that this type of training in



the private industry would have cost \$465 or more per person; a tremendous savings for Hamilton County.



For more information about PERRP, visit <http://perrp.bes.state.oh.us>.



**Karen - DOB September 1990**

Quiet, timid and shy, Karen is an adorable girl with a winning smile.

Karen loves school, reading mysteries and fantasy books, and drawing.

She is very creative and is gifted at arranging flowers.



## Thursday's Child For Information Call (513) 632-6366

**Dylan - DOB June 1998**

Dylan is the youngest of his siblings. He is shy, calm and quiet and likes being with his brother and sisters.

Dylan is on target developmentally and likes being read to.

He enjoys swimming, swinging and riding his bicycle.



## Disney's *Mr. 3000* Scenes Filmed at GABP



Pastime Productions filmed scenes for Disney and Touchstone Pictures release, *Mr. 3000*, at Great American Ball Park (GABP) during the Cincinnati Reds games on Wednesday, August 27 and Thursday, August

28, 2003. The Reds hosted the Brewers at 7:10 p.m. on Wednesday and at 12:35 p.m. on Thursday.

Bernie Mac stars in this comedy about a retired Milwaukee Brewers player who returns to



baseball when three of his career base hits are disallowed, leaving him shy of 3,000.



Bernie Mac

## Solid Waste District Funds 1st EPP



As part of Hamilton County's initiative to increase its purchase of environmentally preferable products (EPP), the Solid Waste District has set aside funds to encourage the purchase of these products. The District will provide River City Correctional Center, the first agency to receive those funds, with \$9,900 for the purchase and installation of recycled-content carpet. The carpet backing is composed of 100% recycled materials and the carpet is 30-50% recycled material. The current carpet will be removed and recycled, as opposed to landfilled. The district worked closely with Wayne Adkins, Business Manager, River City Correctional Center, on this excellent EPP opportunity. The Solid Waste District looks forward to working with other county agencies to increase the amount of EPP purchases.

For more information on this program, please contact Jeff Aluotto, 946.7719 or Holly Christmann, 946.7705.



## Courthouse on Archibus/FM brochure cover

The Hamilton County Courthouse graced the cover of the Archibus/FM brochure. Hamilton County is one of several government agencies using the services of Archibus/FM to track assets, space management and leases. In 2004, the service will be used to track work orders for the County Facilities department. Archibus, Inc. is the #1 global provider of facilities and infrastructure management solutions and services.

To view an electronic version of the brochure, visit



[www.archibus.com/government](http://www.archibus.com/government).

## DUNS number required to apply for grants

### D-U-N-S Number

The Federal Office of Management and Budget has directed all federal agencies to require applicants for federal grants to provide a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number when applying for federal grants or cooperative agreements. This direction is effective October 1, 2003.

Contact Cindy Weitlauf, Grants Coordinator, 946.4317, for the DUNS number to be used, or if you have questions.

## Ragweed Rage

The sneezing, sniffing, and itchy eyes that many people feel this time of year is commonly referred to as hay fever season and is primarily caused by ragweed. Ragweed blooms from August through October and is most prevalent in the Midwest.

To reduce exposure to ragweed pollen, avoid the outdoors between 5 and 10 a.m., shower and change clothing after being outside as pollen can adhere to clothing, skin and hair. Try to keep windows closed in the home and car as much as possible.

Call 946.7747 to request a copy of *Living with Allergies* or visit [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org).



## Reducing the risk of West Nile Virus

Take precautions to avoid mosquito bites and be aware of West Nile virus symptoms.



- ◆ Use mosquito repellent on clothes and exposed skin.
- ◆ Products with 30% or less DEET are recommended for adults and 10% or less for children.
- ◆ Peak periods for mosquitoes — dusk to dawn.
- ◆ Remove standing water from your property.

Call 946.7832 or visit [www.hamilton-co.org/boh](http://www.hamilton-co.org/boh) for more information.

## Clerical Staff Retreat

Clerical support staff countywide joined together on August 11, 2003, at Great American



Ball Park for an all day session involving networking, customer service and communication training exercises, teambuilding exercises and

exercises designed to assist staff in making personal and professional commitments. The retreat began with remarks by County Administrator Dave



Krings. Dr. George Manning, Professor of Psychology at Northern Kentucky University, facilitated the day which focused on customer service through the team concept. In one afternoon session, support staff were challenged to answer the question, "Would you hire you?"



A total of 24 county departments were represented by 52 participating support staff members. The retreat provided participants with an opportunity for new learning and an opportunity to share experiences.

## Flu Season

Each winter, millions of people suffer from the flu, a highly contagious infection caused by a variety of flu viruses that infect the nose, throat and lungs. It spreads easily from person to person mainly when an infected person coughs or sneezes. If the flu virus infects you, you will usually feel symptoms very quickly, including headache, chills, dry cough, body aches, fever, stuffy nose, and sore throat.

charge by presenting their NewHealth, Primary Access or CoChoice card at any scheduled flu shot site. Employees who have opted out of medical insurance coverage may receive the vaccination for a \$15 copay, payable at each location. Please see your departmental payroll officer for the date and time flu shots are scheduled at your office location.

Again this year, Hamilton County and Humana ChoiceCare have teamed up to help employees be flu-free. Employees with Humana ChoiceCare medical insurance can receive their vaccine free of

For more information on influenza and the flu shot vaccine, visit [www.cdc.gov/nip](http://www.cdc.gov/nip) or consult your physician. For information about the county's flu shot program, contact Kim Pennekamp, County Personnel, 946.4705.

## Free Fridays!

In appreciation of the support of Hamilton County, the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal invites you to experience complimentary admission to the Cincinnati History Museum, Cinergy Children's Museum, and the Museum of Natural History and Science on Friday, September 19, 4 to 8 p.m.

### "Got News?"

**If you have County news for *Hello, Hamilton County*, send an email to Sharon Booker at [sharon.booker@hamilton-co.org](mailto:sharon.booker@hamilton-co.org). Next deadline: September 29, 2003.**

## Proper PC Usage

It is not in the best interest of Hamilton County for its employees to link to non-business related websites. Employees are encouraged to avoid instant messenger, radio and TV, or any other such sites. If you have bookmarked sites such as these, please delete the bookmark.

Section 6.6 D of the Hamilton County Personnel Policy Manual addresses Internet access by county employees. If you have questions regarding the policy, please contact the Personnel Department at 946.4700.



**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.