



# Hello, Hamilton County

E-News for Hamilton County Residents and Staff

October 8, 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 Wins Again!

Kay Rogers, president of the Ohio Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), presented to Dave Krings, County Administrator and Lois Reynolds, Deputy Director of Administrative Services, the GFOA Distinguished Budget Award. Hamilton County has received the award for eleven consecutive years.

The GFOA award represents a significant achievement by Hamilton County and indicates that Hamilton County's budget document has been reviewed and rated favorably by an expert panel of independent budgeting professionals. The award reflects the commitment of many individuals in Hamilton County working together to meet the highest standards of governmental budgeting, as well as the leadership and support of elected and appointed officials.

In order to earn the budget award, Hamilton County had to meet GFOA's standards for sound budget documentation. The standards were developed by experienced budget practitioners.



Pictured (l-r): Kay Rogers, Lois Reynolds, Dave Krings

“The governing body and the taxpayers of Hamilton County should take pride in the fact that their budget document has been judged to be one of the best in its class, an excellent example of good budgeting,” stated Ms. Rogers.

Congratulations to Eric Stuckey, Assistant County Administrator for Administrative Services and his staff for this award winning document.



## Engineer's Display

The Hamilton County Engineer's office is displaying a collection of late 1800's to mid-1900's surveying equipment, as well as other items of interest.

Stop by the Engineer's office, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., County Administration Building, 138 E. Court Street, Room 700.



## Group Study Exchange

The Rotary International Group Study Exchange is seeking candidates for team leaders and team members to go to Argentina in April 2004. Candidates should speak Spanish or at least be able to converse at some level.

County Administrator Dave Krings is a member of Rotary International, an organization of busi-

ness and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

For information and an application, visit the Rotary website at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).

## Hamilton County Employees Are Volunteering



Several county employees have already committed to serve as mentors through the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative (CYC) Mentoring Program.

The mentoring program, launched in 1990, is seeking caring, concerned, attentive adults to be a powerful, positive influence in the development and maturing of a young person. CYC recognizes the responsibility of immediate families in the lives of these young people, but believes that the entire

community has a significant role to play in the healthy development of children and youth, as well.

The primary goal of the program is to help students successfully complete school and graduate with the motivation, skills, knowledge, and training necessary to be productive and successful in the world of work.

As a result of strong support from community and business organizations and the media, CYC currently has 1,776 active mentors and tutors. There are 60 active mentoring programs in the

Cincinnati Public School System, yet there are 700 young people on the mentoring program's waiting list.

CYC mentors are asked to make at least a one year commitment to a student with weekly contact. Please consider making such a commitment.

For more information, call Marc Johnson, CYC Vice President, 475.4148 or visit the website at [www.thepowerofl.org](http://www.thepowerofl.org).

*Pictured are youth who desire to be mentored.*



**Artisia**

*"I need a lady to discuss things with"*



**Marita**

*"I want a mentor who enjoys sports..."*



**Dustin**

*"I want a mentor who can teach me about computers..."*



**Marvin**

*"I need someone to talk to..."*



**Sylvia**

**Birthdate: October 1994**

Meet shy and sweet Sylvia, who likes school and earns good grades.

When she is home she likes to curl up and have someone else read to her. Playing with her dolls, watching movies and cartoons, and swimming are a few of her favorite things.

Sylvia never turns down food — beans and cornbread are among her favorites.

Sylvia has a brother and a twin sister that she would like to stay in touch with.

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



## Garden for Visitors and Staff and River City Correctional Center

Normally, you would not think of a correctional facility as a beautiful place, but at River City Correctional Center (on the site of the Workhouse in Camp Washington), you will find abundant beauty right at the front door.

Maintenance worker, Mark Rhoads and selected residents have created a garden for visitors and staff to enjoy everyday. The area is filled with perennials planted to ensure blooms throughout the spring, summer and fall seasons. In addition, Mark and his crew planted annuals to add color and contrast to the surroundings.

Mark is dismissive of the praise he receives saying, "It was not hard to have a beautiful garden when you have all this help." Mark insists the residents from the facility who assisted him deserve the credit. They certainly contributed to the work of installing the plants and trees, but Mark is the designer who created the planting spaces. It is Mark who deserves the kudos for the plan.



All the employees of River City Correctional Center enjoy looking at the garden as they enter or leave the building, but until this spring there was nothing to invite them to sit in the area. Early this spring, that changed when stone tables and benches were added. You can see staff members enjoying lunch daily in the garden, commenting on the lovely surroundings. All staff members agree, having the garden is a real benefit of working at the correctional facility.

Part of the plan for the garden and planting surrounding the site was an agreement between Hamilton County facility planners and the Camp Washington community. Residents were initially reluctant to have another correctional facility built on the site of the "Old Workhouse" but relented when they were assured the site would enhance the community.

Hamilton County employees are invited to visit River City Correctional Center and sit in the garden. You will enjoy the time and, perhaps get some planting ideas.

## Training About Preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome

Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services' child care home providers will be offered training about preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome — a serious form of child abuse which can result in permanent brain damage or death. Primarily, children under age one are affected.

The Council on Child Abuse of Southern Ohio is conducting two-hour training sessions at 237 William Howard Taft Road, Room GN009. The first two sessions in this series were held September 23 and October 4. A final session will be held on October 15.

It is anticipated that two classes per month will be offered for the duration of the grant which is

being used to fund the training sessions. If space permits, the sessions will be opened to agency staff.

The council suggested the training while the agency was researching a high number of shaken baby cases in Hamilton County earlier this year. The training became a reality after the council received a grant to pay for the sessions.

Providers will learn how to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome and educate parents about the problem.

For more information about the training sessions, contact Job and Family Services, 946.1000.

Babies are delicate



Please don't shake

## Volunteer's Night At Bengals' Game

Each year, the Hamilton County Volunteer Program participants are invited to the County's suite at Paul Brown Stadium to watch a Bengals' game. The evening out serves as a thank you for all the services provided through their volunteer efforts.



Attending the August 23rd game with their guests were Inell Pinkston-Nash, Sharon Morris, Judy Hill, and Patricia Collins. Also attending were volunteer program coordinators, John Wagner,

Recorder's office and Jessica Hayes, Personnel Department.

It was a great game with great weather, good food and good company! Thanks to each of our volunteers!



## Community COMPASS Award



The Vision for Hamilton County's Future has been honored yet again, this time with the **2003 Outstanding Community Planning Award** from the Ohio Planning Conference (OPC), the state chapter of the American Planning Association.

The OPC award, presented annually, was formally given to the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) in September, at the Association's statewide conference in Dayton.

The award is presented to a community, jurisdiction, organization or agency that warrants recognition for excellence and continued effort in utilizing the principles of planning and the planning process.

The award recognizes that Community COMPASS was successful in advancing the science and art of planning by merging technology in public involvement, consensus in decision-making, and accountability in implementation.

Ron Miller, RPC Executive Director said, "We are honored that the cutting edge processes used in Community COMPASS, as well as the hard work of consensus-building by the elected officials and citizens in 49 communities are being recognized and rewarded. Through this collective shared vision, Hamilton County now has direction to chart its course into the 21st century."

Congratulations RPC!

## Congratulations!



Helena Schneider and Melissa Juergens, both on staff at the Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, participated in the September 27, 2nd annual

Buddy Walk at Newport on the Levee, along with family members, Jeni Schneider, a senior at Breyer School, Eric, and 21 month old Austin. The Schneider team consisted of a total of 18 friends and family members.

The Buddy Walk was established to raise awareness about Down syndrome.

### "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: **October 20.**

## Open House

The Hamilton County Board of Mental Retardation and Development Disabilities invites you to attend their 36th Annual Open House Event on Thursday, October 9, 2003, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the following locations:

- Beckman Adult Center, 2600 Civic Center Drive
- Franks Adult Center, 5884 Bridgetown Road
- Jackson Adult Center, 5093 Kingsley Drive
- Kidd Adult Center, 9910 Reading Road
- Frederick A. Breyer School, 2675 Civic Center Drive
- Bobbie B. Fairfax School, 4999 Kingsley Drive
- Margaret B. Rost School, 5858 Bridgetown Road



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.