



Hello, Hamilton County

E-News for Hamilton County Residents and Staff

October 24, 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 Commissioners Accept Ohio Bicentennial Bell

At the October 16 ceremony, County Commission President, John S. Dowlin was presented the Hamilton County Bicentennial Bell.

The Hamilton County bell, handmade on-site by the Cincinnati-based Verdin Company in a two-day event, was molded in the “American” style of the Liberty Bell and personalized with the county’s name, date of casting, the Great Seal of Ohio and the Bicentennial logo.



Commissioner Dowlin and Senator Mark Mallory

Hundreds of citizens were in attendance to

watch the event. Each citizen present was given an opportunity to ring the bell.



Citizens line up to ring the new bell.

The Hamilton County bell will be suspended from a cast iron cradle and placed in front of the courthouse.

The bell casting took place in conjunction with the Tall Stacks event held October 15–19, 2003. Bells will be cast in each of the 88 Ohio counties, and will gather in Columbus for the final bicentennial event.



Hamilton County's bell

Broadcasting Effort Yields County Nearly \$2.8M

More than six years ago, Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services began a special child support collection project that has had outstanding results. The project is a collaborative effort of the department’s Child Support staff, the Hamilton County Sheriff, and WCPO-TV. Since its beginning, the effort has collected nearly \$2.8 million for children.

Each week, Channel 9 News runs pictures of parents wanted for nonpayment of child support. Viewers with information call

946.5353. Sheriff’s deputies use viewers’ tips to find and arrest child support fugitives.

From October 1, 1996 to the present, viewer tips, stimulated by WCPO-TV, have led to nearly \$2.8 million in child support collections from more than 700 nonpaying parents. The largest lump sum payment made on a case since 1996 is \$50,790.

Collections for 2003 total \$542,867. Quarterly collections are as follows:

- ◆ 1st quarter — \$193,665
- ◆ 2nd quarter — \$204,393
- ◆ 3rd quarter — \$151,953

Cumulative statistics for 2003:

- ◆ 389 absent parents featured on TV
- ◆ 271 telephone tips received
- ◆ 660 total cases receiving payment

Hamilton County thanks WCPO-TV for broadcasting names and photos of child support fugitives, and thanks the citizens for tips.

Bernice Walker Named Among Who's Who In Black Cincinnati



Congratulations to Bernice Walker, Director of Small, Minority and Female Business Development for Hamilton County, who was recently

nominated for inclusion in the inaugural edition of *Who's Who In Black Cincinnati*.

Who's Who In Black Cincinnati features a compilation of Greater Cincinnati's African American corporate executives, business owners, community and spiritual leaders, government leaders and other outstanding professionals who have played a considerable role in making a positive difference in their professions and in the Cincinnati community at large.

In addition to working toward the county's goal to increase the participation of small businesses working on county projects, Ms. Walker is an adjunct professor at Salmon P. Chase College of Law. She is past president of the Black Lawyers Association of Cincinnati and an active member since 1989.

Ms. Walker understands the importance of building good relationships and taking advantage of opportunities. She regularly shares strategies of doing so with the people she mentors.

The National Bar Association has recognized Ms. Walker's

outstanding service and commitment on numerous occasions. At their recent 78th Annual Convention and Exhibits in New Orleans, Ms. Walker was re-elected chairperson of the Small Business Development Section.

The official unveiling reception for the release of *Who's Who In Black Cincinnati*, 2003-2004 Edition, took place at the Hilton Netherlands Plaza Hotel on Thursday, October 23, 2003.

If you have questions related to small business development, contact Ms. Walker at 946.4323.



Terrence

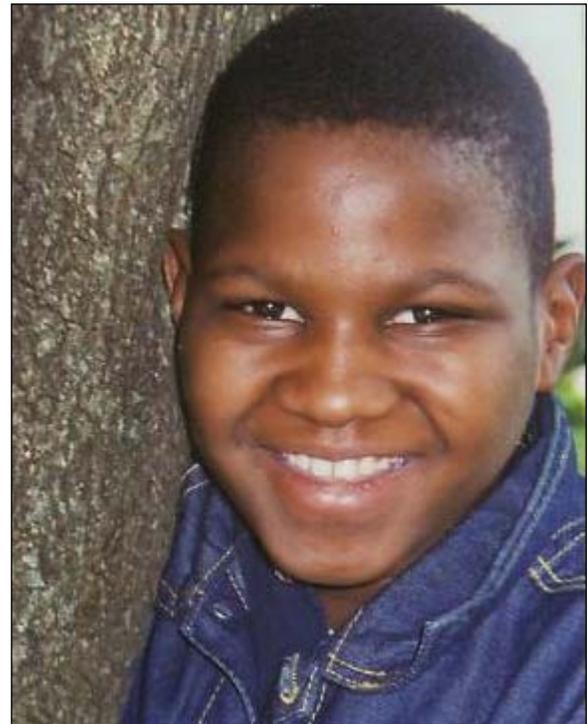
Birth date: February 17, 1992

Terrence can be a very friendly and enjoyable youngster. He is very thoughtful, courteous and pleasant toward his peers and others.

Terrence is a healthy and active child who enjoys video games, football and playing with other children.

Terrence likes school and makes good grades. He needs a loving, patient family to help him reach his full potential.

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



National Adoption Awareness Month

During November, the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services (HCJFS) will celebrate National Adoption Awareness Month – an opportunity to focus attention on boys and girls in the child welfare system waiting for adoption.

HCJFS is teaming with the Tri-State Adoption Coalition to place photographs of children available for adoption on trayliners at 41 area Wendy's restaurants and in Aronoff Center for the Arts programs for the Broadway Series show, *STOMP!*

The Heart Gallery, a traveling display unveiled this fall by the coalition, can be seen in malls, hospitals and bank lobbies. In addition to this traveling display of adoptive children, HCJFS regularly updates the videotape, *Making Dreams Come True* that also features children available for adoption. Video clips appear on the HCJFS adoption website. Channel 12 also features children each week on *Thursday's Child*. HCJFS-sponsored events, such as holiday parties and summer picnics, allow children and interested parents to meet and interact.

More than 100 children are available at any one time. HCJFS especially needs parents for older children and sibling groups.

To learn more about adoption, visit www.hcjfs.org or call 632.6366.

National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month

In a recent celebration held on Fountain Square, First Lady Hope Taft praised the efforts and courage of thousands of Hamilton County residents in achieving recovery from alcohol and drug addiction. The Hamilton County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ADAS) Board, the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati, Talbert House, Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program of Cincinnati, and Crossroads Center hosted the rally that celebrated National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

ADAS Board CEO Sherry Knapp, Ph.D., was among those who spoke about the successes made in helping people achieve recovery and the continuing need for assistance with treatment and prevention programs. Compelling stories were also told by Hamilton County residents who have struggled with addiction and who have turned their lives around, thanks to the efforts of the ADAS Board and area treatment and prevention agencies.

Another recovery month community celebration honored Commission President John S. Dowlin for his work in assisting people recovering from alcohol and drug addiction.

For information about alcohol and drug addiction treatment and prevention, contact the ADAS Board at 621.7202.

2003 HUD Recognition Award

The Hamilton County Community Development Department received a HUD recognition award earlier in October, for their Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBA) Program. The TBA program provides ongoing monthly rental assistance and security deposits to low income disabled individuals and families. Funded with HOME formula funds, the program resembles the Section 8 Voucher program where tenants locate housing in the open market and the county then pays a portion of the rent to the landlord. The program currently serves approximately 160 individuals and families per year with about \$700,000 of HOME funds.

Hamilton County changed its program design several years ago in response to local discussions with interest groups that identified substantial unmet needs within the disabled community. As a result of the change, intake for the program is now performed by three agencies representing special needs: Caracole serving persons with HIV/AIDS; Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities; and Independent Living Options which serves all disabled populations.

Congratulations to Dan Domis, Hamilton County's Community Development Department Director; Deputy Director Susan Walsh, and their staff.



HUD Director Lana Vacha and Susan Walsh

It's Yoga Downtown!



Does your life need balance?

Since Weight Watchers was so successful, Hamilton County is considering a yoga program for its employees through the services of "It's Yoga Downtown."

The whole system of yoga is built on three main structures: exercise, breathing, and meditation. Regular practice of all three parts of this structure of yoga produce a clear, bright mind and a strong, capable body.



If you are interested in a yoga program for county employees, contact Sharon Booker at 946.4428 or sharon.booker@hamilton-co.org

Drive-Thru Flu Clinic Offered For Convenience

The Greater Cincinnati Flu Collaborative and Hamilton County General Health District will offer a drive-thru flu clinic as an added convenience for people who are getting the flu vaccine.

When: Thursday, October 30, 2003, 10 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

Where: The Fidelity Professional Building
4557 Montgomery Road, Norwood

Staff: The clinic will be staffed by licensed nurses who are prepared to provide the same medical care found at traditional flu clinics.

Who Should Attend: Anyone who would like to receive the flu vaccine, but particularly those who have limited mobility and difficulty getting in and out of a traditional clinic.



The Greater Cincinnati Flu Collaborative is comprised of local organizations and companies representing the private, public health, and health care sectors. Its mission is to reduce the incidence of the flu by promoting the importance of receiving the flu vaccine.

Soil and Water Winners!

At the September 25 Soil and Water Conservation District meeting, the 2003 Outstanding Conservationists and Organizations were announced. Plaques were awarded to:

Sister Miriam Kaeser
Educator of the Year

Hamilton County Engineers
Conservation Partner of the Year

The Land Conservancy of Hamilton County
Urban Conservationist

In addition to plaques awarded, Tim Boehmer was elected Supervisor for the District commencing January 1, 2004.

Congratulations to all the winners!

Community Events Around Hamilton County



Mt. Airy Forest Festival
at Oak Ridge Lodge
Saturday, October 25, 2003
Noon — 5 P.M.
A day of family fun!

Household Hazardous Waste
Collection Event
Coney Island
Saturday, October 25, 2003
9 A.M.—3 P.M.

Metropolitan Sewer District
community meeting
for the Global Consent Decree
Lockland Municipal Building
Recreation Center
101 North Cooper Avenue
Monday, October 27, 2003
5:30 P.M.—7:30 P.M.

Hamilton County Interns From Germany

Ulrike Zendel and Renate Durmaier flew into the United States on October 6, and began internships with Hamilton County on October 13 — Ulrike in the Department of Administrative Services and Renate with the Prosecutor's office.



Ulrike Zendel

Ulrike is 20 years old and employed by the City of Munich. Renate Durmaier attends the University of Applied Sciences and is working toward a law degree.

Their visits are sponsored by the Munich Sister City Association of Greater Cincinnati. Ulrike and Renate will be interning in Hamilton County through the first week in December.

We welcome Ulrike and Renate to Hamilton County!



Renate Durmaier

"Got News?"
If you have county news for *Hello, Hamilton County*, send an email to Sharon Booker at sharon.booker@hamilton-co.org.
Next deadline: **November 10.**



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.