



Hello, Hamilton County

E-News for Hamilton County Residents and Staff

December 17, 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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Correction

The CPD Intranet Site article contained an erroneous e-mail address. The correct address is: <http://hcnet/xpersonnel>

Enjoy
The
Holiday
Season!

Judge Mark Painter co-authors Newly Revised Ohio Appellate Practice Treatise



Hamilton County's own Judge Mark Painter and his co-author Douglas R. Dennis have completed an extensively revised edition of *Ohio Appellate Practice*. The book, published by WestGroup, the nation's largest legal publisher, was shipped to lawyers and judges across Ohio this month.

Ohio Appellate Practice is a step-by-step analysis of the appellate process in Ohio. It is a guide for lawyers practicing in the district courts of appeal and the Ohio Supreme Court.

The book has undergone a massive revision from the 2003 edition. Lawyers should find it up-to-date and practical. It contains 269 pages of text, 809 pages of law and rules, a complete index and a table of cases.

Besides *Ohio Appellate Practice*, Judge Painter is the author of *Ohio Driving Under the Influence Law*, now in its 12th edition, also published by WestGroup. He also authored *The Legal Writer*, now in its second edition, published by Jarndyce & Jarndyce Press.

Judge Painter was elected to the First District Court of Appeals in 1994, and re-elected without opposition in 2000. Previously, he served thirteen years on the Municipal Court.

Judge Painter, a frequent lecturer, has taught more than 100 seminars for judges, lawyers and police officers.

He has served for 13 years as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Cincinnati.

A Cincinnati native, Judge Painter attended the University of Cincinnati, where he was elected Student Body President in 1969. He earned a B.A. in 1970, and a Juris Doctor degree in 1973. He practiced law for nine years before becoming a judge.

Co-author Doug Dennis is an associate at Frost Brown Todd and a former law clerk for the First District Court of Appeals. He is a graduate of the United States Military Academy and the University of Cincinnati College of Law.



25 Years of Service



Thomas Welch (pictured at left) and Carol Watson (pictured below) were both congratulated by Commissioners John Dowlin (pictured), Phil Heimlich and Todd Portune after being recognized for 25 years of service, at the commissioners' November 26 meeting.

Tom began employment on November 20, 1978, and worked in both intake and ongoing investigations of child abuse. In the 1980s, he became an advocate for the elderly and today holds a supervisory position in Adult Protective Services.

Carol Watson began employment on November 6, 1978 in the child support program. In 1995, she became a section chief and in 1998, joined the welfare reform management team, leading a large section of casework staff who provided income maintenance, child care and child support services. When Ohio's counties were faced with mandatory conversion of computer records to the statewide computer system, SETS, Carol stepped up to the challenge to coordinate the conversion for Hamilton County's nearly 80,000 records. Hamilton County converted on time with the lowest conversion error rate of all metropolitan counties.

In 2002, Carol moved to her current administrative capacity which includes managing special projects and researching and responding to customer service complaints across all divisions of the agency.

Congratulations Tom and Carol!



HCJFS To Honor Workers

In January, Job and Family Services (JFS) will honor the dedicated workers who daily help dozens of people apply for important services.

The agency will celebrate its first Income Maintenance (IM) month with newsletter articles, a cafeteria display and other efforts that highlight the work of its IM staff.

Health Services, such as Tuberculosis Control and Healthy Start, as well as welfare diversion workers, will also be spotlighted.

"Knowing that occasionally I really do help a family out of a particularly rough life situation makes the stress of the job worth it," said Kelly Fitzpatrick, one of the workers recognized in the agency's internal newsletter. "The people I work with also make the job enjoyable."

For a closer look at the agency's IM programs, visit www.hcjfs.org.



Ricardo

birth date: January 1992

Ricardo loves riding bikes, roller skating and playing tag. Energetic and active, Ricardo enjoys all sports, from swimming and gymnastics to basketball and football.

Ricardo is especially proud of his karate skills. The concentration he has learned from karate helps him roller blade and climb trees. Indoors, he likes reading mystery books, playing with action figures and watching Pokeman or any movie. Pizza tops his list when it comes to favorite foods.

Ricardo is a good student and earns good grades. He is on target educationally and developmentally. He needs a family who will support him with his anger and separation issues. He has an older and younger sister he would like to keep in contact with.

Ricardo needs a loving family who will help him achieve and succeed at his goals in life.

Thursday's Child For Information Call 513.632.6366



Online Auction Website

Hamilton County's online auction has received nearly \$25,000 in revenue within a six month period. "Last year, the county conducted a physical auction and lost \$70,000 in revenue due to low bidding, storage costs, and various auction costs. In addition to earning revenue, the [online] auction has also allowed us to reimburse restricted funds," said John Hinners, who manages the website.

More than 7,000 citizens visit the website monthly and there are approximately 10,000 users registered on the system with residences from Ohio to California. Hamilton County departments/agencies can utilize the site, as well.

Some of the items to be showcased in upcoming weeks include computer systems, laser jet systems, fax machines, digital camera equipment, networking equipment and modems.

For information about the online public auction website, contact John Hinners at 946.2255 or visit www.hamilton-co.org and click the "Online Auction" button.

Vision and Strategies Endorsed

In an historic and unprecedented action on November 26, the county commissioners endorsed a vision for Hamilton County's future. The vision, a two-year effort to build consensus on what goals the county should work toward in the next two to three decades, is the foundation of the Community COMPASS and the first comprehensive vision ever adopted for Hamilton County. Community COMPASS is a process initiated by the Regional Planning Commission to help residents, businesses and civic groups determine what they believe their county should be.

The vision for the county's future identifies what matters most to our community and what we want to jointly create. More than 3,000 people participated in a series of meetings and surveys setting goals. More than 100 people attended the November public hearing to show support.

The commissioners' resolution commits the county to considering Community COMPASS' goals and initiatives when making decisions, and encourages other local governments to do the same. The vision for the county's future, the work of thousands of citizens and dozens of jurisdictions and organizations, became possible through the progressive thinking of the county commissioners.

What's next? The next steps are to select initiatives, identify implementation partners and prepare specific recommendations in the form of action plans.

Community COMPASS provides an overall framework that enables greater success in the county through cooperation and collaboration.



fyi

- ◆ Yard waste recycling drop off sites will reopen January 3 and 10 to receive yard waste and Christmas trees. Sites are located at Evans Landscaping in Newtown, Kuliga Park in Green Township, and Rumpke Sanitary Landfill in Colerain Township.
- ◆ Hoxworth's one-day blood drive will be held December 19, 9:00 and 11:30 AM at the County Administration Building, and 1:00 and 3:00 PM at JFS, 222 E. Central Parkway.
- ◆ Solid Waste has been awarded a \$130,691 Recycle, Ohio! Grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.
- ◆ Environmental Services' Air Quality Management Division was awarded a \$95,500 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to retrofit 20 school buses with clean exhaust technology and to fuel 74 buses with bio-diesel, a cleaner-burning alternative fuel.

Central Riverfront Garage Award

The Central Riverfront Garage and THP Limited, Inc. received a Merit Award at the Seventh Annual Cincinnati Design Awards, an event co-sponsored by the American Institute of Architects and other affiliated design organizations. Nationally renowned leaders and noted professionals within the architectural profession judged the work submitted.

"The county is pleased that the Block 3 garage segment design of the Central Riverfront Garage received this merit award," said Mike Sieving, the county's Project Executive. "The recognized design elements are round holes in the concrete shear walls which provide a means to see through a massive structural element to aid in security. The stainless steel railings and traffic control elements will significantly reduce maintenance costs, and the glass enclosed and brightly lit stairwells make them visible from the garage. The painted ceilings reflect light from the light fixtures to compliment the energy efficient lighting system."



When completed, the Central Riverfront Garage will be the country's largest single footprint garage. It will be approximately one-half mile long and cover seven city blocks from Broadway to Elm Street. Congratulations to Mike, THP Limited, Inc. and staff.

Spreading Holiday Spirit

Genesis pod residents at River City Correctional Center (RCCC) have been busy working on a special project. Unicorn Miniatures donated a \$400 dollhouse kit to the pod, and residents are constructing the Vermont style dollhouse which will be donated to a local battered women's shelter.

The project began four months ago, under the guidance of education specialists, Andrea Pronko and Ellen Gieszl. Many hours have gone into the construction, painting and decorating of this adorable three-story dollhouse.



One resident said, "Working on the dollhouse project has given me a sense of worth and meaning. I'm glad to bring joy to a child at Christmas time."

We commend the Genesis pod residents and RCCC staff for their work on this project.

Snow Roadeo



In September, County Engineer William Brayshaw held his Annual Snow Roadeo, a training-competition

held to make safe driving a priority, especially during snow and ice conditions. The event tests driving capabilities in various predicaments that may be encountered while clearing roadways of snow and ice.

Invitations to participate were extended to the city, townships and municipalities, and 261 drivers competed. Our winners are:

- Harry Schmeusser ~ 1st place
- Jim Hetzel ~ 2nd place
- Daniel Isaacs ~ 3rd place
- Michael Johnston ~ 4th place

Harry and Jim went on to compete in the American Public Works Association of South-

west Ohio Sanitation Maintenance Safety Organization Roadeo in Dayton, Ohio. Harry placed 2nd out of 59 contestants and Jim placed in the top half. The first place driver, from Colerain Township, prepared for this competition by competing in Hamilton County's Snow Roadeo.

Rick Feller, who placed 4th in the county's 2002 Roadeo, won 1st place in the 2003 Ohio Invitational Snow Roadeo in Dublin, Ohio. The Dublin competition included top drivers from all over Ohio and as far away as Texas.

Pictured above, left to right, are Harry Schmeusser, Jim Hetzel, Daniel Isaacs and Michael Johnston. Pictured right is Rick Feller.



Congratulations all!

Sharon Chamberlin Certified

Sharon Chamberlin, Facilities Administrator, was awarded the designation Certified in Homeland Security, Level III by the American College of Forensic Examiners Institute (ACFEI). Level III is the highest level given and is awarded on the basis of knowledge, skill, training and experience.

The certification was created in response to President Bush's "call to action" following the events of September 11, 2001. The "call to action" requires considerable efforts and interplay between the "best and the brightest" in government and the private sector.

The commitment and knowledge of ACFEI's members and its organizational structure, places the organization in a position to make significant contributions to the pressing issue of homeland security.

Congratulations, Sharon!

Family Centered Practice

In October, four Children's Services supervisors attended the Nebraska Supervisors Conference to give a presentation on Family Centered Practice. Joyce Viall-Landrum, Pamela Minter, Lisa Belle and Carolyn Patton discussed and answered questions about proactive structured supervision.

"Approximately 100 Nebraska administrators and supervisors, as well as visitors from Kansas were in awe of the presentation," said Carolyn. Forty-five supervisors who were in attendance said they would begin utilizing this type of supervision. Great job, Joyce, Pamela, Lisa and Carolyn!

Great Job!



Thanks, Bill!

Bill Stautberg, Property Manager for the county, is one of the photographers for *Hello, Hamilton County*.

Most of the photographs you see in the bi-weekly newsletter are shot by Bill. He then processes the photos and makes any necessary adjustments.

Thanks, Bill, for volunteering your services. You're a superb photographer!

"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: **December 22.**

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), Peter Hames (946.4432), or Cheryl Willis (946.4324). To subscribe or unsubscribe visit www.hamilton-co.org and click on the green "Newsletter" button.