



Hello, Hamilton County

E-News for Hamilton County Residents and Staff

February 6, 2004

“We will serve the residents of Hamilton County by providing the best and most responsive county government in America.”
— Hamilton County Vision

Inside this issue:

JFS employee receives scholarship	1
County's Internet Auction	1
SWCD Landscape Seminar and Tree Sale	2
SWMD Seeks Committee Member	2
Thursday's Child	2
Congratulations, Joe!	3
130 Years of Service	3
ASPA Nominations	3
Fyi . . .	4
Yardwaste Recycling	4

Teach the children to
Celebrate Black History Month!

Saturday, February 7, 14, 21, 28

Main Library
800 Vine Street ~ 369.6900

Super Saturday:
African Story Vine

2:00 p.m.

Ages 6–12

Correction

In the January 16 issue, the answer to question 9 of Test Your MLK Knowledge was omitted. The answer is b) Mohandas Gandhi.

JFS Employee Receives \$12,000 David S. Liederman Scholarship

Sue Wolven, a Residential Treatment supervisor in Children's Services at Job and Family Services, won a 2004



David S. Liederman Scholarship from the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA).

The national scholarship program is designed to help

agency employees pursue an Master's of Social Work (MSW) or other relevant degree on a full-time or part-time basis.

According to CWLA, scholarship recipients are “outstanding individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to serving children and their families, and who have a desire to pursue a master's degree and integrate new knowledge into their child welfare careers.”

Each regional scholarship recipient will receive

\$12,000 to defray the costs of pursuing an MSW beginning in the fall of 2004.

“Sue Wolven should be proud, but unsurprised by this recognition. This scholarship acknowledges the exceptional work Sue does every day serving children and families in this community. It will also put her in a stronger position to add similar value in the future,” said Kevin Holt, Sue's supervisor.

Congratulations, Sue! Keep up the good work.

County's Internet Auction Recognized In Delaware Gazette

As Delaware County launched its first public Internet auction of surplus items, Hamilton County's surplus asset specialist, John Hinners was quoted in a *Delaware Gazette* article.

Hamilton County has realized a \$27,000 savings since introducing the Internet auction in June 2003.

When Hamilton County held live auctions, it is reported we typically lost approximately

\$70,000 per year in storage costs. “If people came to the auction, said Hinners, they would place bids of \$2 for a pallet of 50 computers.”

The online auction produced more competitive bidding, and the website now receives approximately 40,000 to 60,000 hits per month. The most expensive item sold, according to Hinners, was a 1978 Ford utility truck auctioned for \$3,800.

The least expensive item was a calculator which was auctioned for 50 cents.

Delaware County, who recently introduced their Internet auction system, will use a system similar to Hamilton County's.

For more information about Hamilton County's Internet auction, contact John Hinners, Surplus Asset Specialist, 946.2255.

SWCD Landscape Seminar and Tree Sale

The Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Park District have planned a seminar to answer questions about what you should plant and where you should plant. The seminar will be held on Saturday, February 21, at Sharon Centre Auditorium, 11450 Lebanon Road, Sharonville, Ohio, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Please call 772.7645 no later than February 19 to register. Registration is free.

SWCD assembled a panel of experts to help make selections for their 2004 tree sale. The panel includes: Danny McKeown, Nurseryman and host of WGRR radio gardening show; Joe Boggs, Hamilton County Extension Agent; Tim Boehmer, Arborist, Hamilton County Park District; and Steve Sandfort, Consulting Forester. Old standbys, such as the White Dogwood and White Pine are not on the list this year because they simply do not grow well in our county.

To receive a free tree sale brochure stop by the SWCD office or call 772.7645. This year, there will be one pickup location, 29 Triangle Park Drive, Suite 2901, and two pickup dates, April 2, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and April 3, 9:00 a.m. to noon. All orders must be prepaid. The deadline to place an order is March 19.

In addition to trees, groundcover, shrubs, and wildflower seed packets are also being sold.

Don't delay. Spring is just around the corner!

FEBRUARY

IS

BLACK

HISTORY

MONTH.

CELEBRATE!

SWMD Policy Committee Seeks Public Member

The Solid Waste Management District (District) is currently accepting applications for the seat of Public Member on its Policy Committee.

The Policy Committee is charged with setting and managing solid waste and recycling policy and ensuring that the county continues to achieve state mandated goals for waste reduction. The District provides a variety of recycling related programming including, grants to communities; yard waste drop-off programs; household hazardous waste programs; education programs and more.

The public member is responsible for representing the interests of the residents and general public of Hamilton County.

The Policy Committee meets the second Thursday of every other month at the Department of Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road.

Applications are due no later than Friday, February 20. Interested applicants should call 946.7734 or access www.hcdoes.org.



Thursday's Child For Information Call 513.632.6366

Joshua

Birth date: March 1994



Joshua is a happy, cute and sometimes affectionate boy, who likes playing video games and attending school. Joshua is in special education classes at school and he sometimes struggles with learning.

He enjoys playing outside, riding his bike and climbing trees.

Joshua has hydrocephalus, an abnormal accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid within cavities inside the brain. He has a flexible tube placed inserted to divert the flow of the cerebrospinal fluid, called a shunt.

Joshua says he wants to be a fireman when he grows up. This special, young man would like to find a family with his sisters, Samantha and Cadi.

Congratulations, Joe!



Joe Feldkamp has been the County Director of Operations at Paul Brown Stadium since the stadium opened in August 2000.

As part of his orientation,

Joe was introduced to the county's training staff and the programs they offered. As a new employee, Joe saw the training as a way to meet new people and interact with employees from various departments.

After attending the *Leadership For Results* classes, the training department invited Joe to become an adjunct instructor. Joe attended the four-day training session and has taught eight classes since being trained. Gary Berger, Director of Personnel commends Joe, "The class participants benefit from Joe's expertise not only as a facilitator, but as a leader and role model.

Thanks, Joe, for your outstanding contributions to the county's training program.

ASPA Nominations

On Friday, April 16, 2004, the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) will hold its annual banquet to honor the winners of the Public Administrator of the Year Awards. This is your opportunity to nominate a deserving friend or colleague. Chapter membership is not required to be nominated.

Nomination categories include, "Service Innovator," "Early Careerist," "Career Achievement," and "Support Services." The deadline to submit nominations is February 20.

For further information, visit <http://greatercincinnati.aspanet.org/> or contact Chapter Vice President, Enamul Choudhury, at 529.0191 or e-mail at choudheh@muohio.edu.

Celebrating A Total Of 130 Years Of Service

On January 28, the Commissioners presented service pins and Cincinnati books to five employees whose service to the county totaled 130 years.

Dave Mathews, shown right with Commissioner Dowlin, was hired as a communication officer and promoted to his current supervisory position in 1993. Dave has received perfect attendance awards and was nominated 1979 Communication Officer of the Year. He is committed to service, is a team player, and always looks for ways to improve the organization. Congratulations, Dave for 30 years of dedicated service!



Gwendolyn Madaris, shown at left with Commissioner Dowlin, began employment with Job and Family Services (JFS) on January 29, 1979. She currently serves as Program Technician in Health Services where she determines Medicaid eligibility for families and children. Gwendolyn has served on numerous committees at JFS, and currently works on the Black History Month committee, in conjunction with the Cultural Initiatives committee. Congratulations, Gwendolyn for 25 years of service!

May Lloyd, shown at right with Commissioner Dowlin, began her career with Job and Family Services (JFS) in 1978 as a Data Entry Operator, and remained in that position ten years. In 1994, May became Office Manager for Career Action Starts Here, after serving three years as VIP Specialist in Day Care. In 2000, she was promoted to Word Processing Specialist II. May says she has wonderful coworkers and a great working relationship with her supervisor. She is proud to have devoted 25 years of her life to the agency, and she's not quite done yet. Congratulations, May!



Gregory (Sonny) LoBuono, shown at left with Commissioner Dowlin, joined the Communication Center as a Communication Officer on January 4, 1979. Greg is one of the most consistent and reliable dispatchers. Over the years, he has received numerous commendations for his professional and outstanding performance. Greg's genuine care and concern for the citizens and the public safety of the community is outstanding. Congratulations, Sonny for 25 years of service!

Deborah Wilson, shown at right with Commissioner Dowlin, began employment with Job and Family Services (JFS) in January 1979. She has worked in Social Security Intake, the Demonstration Homemaker Program, and the Supplemental Security Income Case Management Unit. Deborah is currently the resident expert on SSI Case Management. Her unit, through the years, has assisted thousands of consumers in completing applications for benefits. Deborah spends countless hours as the JFS liaison with the Social Security Administration. Congratulations, Deborah for 25 years of dedicated service!



fyi . . .

2004 Free Computer Collection

The Solid Waste Management District is hosting their 4th annual computer recycling collection event on April 15-17, at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds. Computers contain hazardous materials and should be properly disposed of. Recycle your old computer at this event.

The registration deadline is March 12. This event is open to Northern Kentucky, Butler, Clermont and Hamilton County residents.

For more information or to register, visit www.hcdoes.org and click on "Solid Waste Management District" or call 946.7732.

HIP Funds Available for County Employees

You may qualify for a Home Improvement Program (HIP) loan at 3% below the best rate the bank is offering.

HIP funds can be used for repairs or improvement to your home or investment property valued by the Auditor at less than \$300,000. For buildings with three or more units, there are no property value limits. Up to \$50,000 can be borrowed for a term of five years.

Call Fifth Third, Key, North Side, Provident, or US banks for information, or call Pat Hanrahan, HIP Coordinator, 946.4988.

Ohio Department of Youth Service Reports

The Ohio Department of Youth Services announced a stricter policy for receiving grant reports and documents. Effective December 1, 2003, reports not received on time, receive no grant extensions or budget revisions. Payments will not be processed for projects with outstanding reports or documentation due. Subsequent awards to the county will also be withheld.

For information, contact Cindy Weitlauf, Grants Coordinator, 946.4317 or Cynthia.Weitlauf@hamilton-co.org.

New E-Check Procedure

The State of Ohio's E-Check program has changed for most vehicles 1996 and newer. The new onboard diagnostic OBD II test uses a handheld tool that plugs into the vehicle's onboard diagnostic computer rather than the traditional tailpipe test. The system can alert you to conditions that can waste fuel, shorten engine life and result in expensive repairs. Currently, E-Check is the most cost-effective measure to reduce compounds that form smog.

For information, visit www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/mobile or call 1-800-CAR-TEST.

Yardwaste Recycling

With temperatures below freezing and snow and ice on the ground, it's hard to believe it's almost time for yardwaste recycling to begin. Once the warmer weather arrives, if you find your yard needs a little spring cleaning, three yardwaste recycling sites with weekend hours are available to Hamilton County residents:

East: Evans Landscaping, 3700 Roundbottom Road, Newtown

West: Kuliga Park, 6717 Bridgetown Road, Green Township

North: Rumpke Sanitary Landfill, Struble Road and Colerain Avenue, Colerain Township

Follow these simple rules:

- ♦ Cut brush and branches to lengths of 4' or less, 12" or less in diameter.
- ♦ Bundled yardwaste must be 75 pounds or less and bagged, preferably brown bags.
- ♦ No pallets, boards, nails, fence, wire, bricks, stones or soil accepted.
- ♦ No trucks larger than pickups. All children must stay inside vehicles.

To make things simpler, learn to manage your yardwaste at home. Call the Yardwaste/Composting Hotline at 946.7755 to receive a free copy of the Yardwaste at Home Handbook.

"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: February 16.



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.