



Hello, Hamilton County

E-News for Hamilton County Residents and Staff

March 12, 2004

“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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Ron Miller Selected As An AICP Fellow



Ron Miller, Executive Director of the Regional Planning Commission, was recently selected as a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). The induction ceremony will be held April 24 in Washington, D.C.

Election to Fellow in AICP is one of the highest honors that the AICP bestows upon a member. This honor is a recognition of the achievements of the planner as an individual, elevating the Fellow before the public and the profession as a model planner who has made significant contributions to planning and society, and outstanding contributions to the profession over an extended period. Fellowship is granted to planners who have been members of AICP for at least

15 years and have achieved excellence in professional practice, teaching and mentoring, research, public/community service, and leadership. Those chosen become members of the AICP College of Fellows.

Congratulations, Ron, on this great accomplishment!

Correction

The answer to #5 of the Presidential Quiz is A) William McKinley was president during the Spanish-American War.

Connecting With Job Seekers

On February 11, Lori Woods, a staffing specialist with the Personnel Department, met with a group of eager job seekers from Concise Clerical to discuss what employers are looking for when recruiting candidates for employment.

The skills development training, entitled “What Employers Look For,” included topics such as, resume/application preparation and submission, the interview process, and how to apply for positions with Hamilton County.

Concise Clerical assists clients from various organizations, such as the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, Veterans Administration, and the Bureau of Workers’ Compensation, with software training, clerical training, and interview skills training.



The Personnel Department was pleased to assist in helping these members of our community develop their skills. Lori is pictured with several clients she met with at the February 11 skills development training.

The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another.

The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month.

~ Henry Van Dyke

The first day of spring is March 20.
The first spring day was February 26.

Commissioners Proclaim Women's History Month



Sharon Baldwin Sittner and Keyanta Shawntee of The Diversity Committee

At their March 3 meeting, the county commissioners proclaimed March, Women's History Month in Hamilton County.

Women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of Hamilton County in countless ways. In their proclamation, the commissioners recognized that women have and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of Hamilton County by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home.

Women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in the county, serving as early leaders in the forefront of major progressive social change movements.

Women, according to the commissioners' proclamation, have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist, emancipation, industrial, civil rights, and other movements which create a more fair and just society for all.

Despite these contributions, the role of women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued in the literature, teaching, and study of American history. The commissioners, therefore, called upon the people of Hamilton County to observe Women's History Month.

Information supplied by The Diversity Committee.

30 Years Of County Service

Sonya Scott, pictured receiving her county pin from Commissioner Dowlin, began employment with the county's Department of Job and Family Services on February 14, 1974, as an eligibility technician. Sonya held that position for 27 years, determining assistance for consumers and managing Adult Medicaid and ongoing cases. For the past three years, Sonya has continued to serve the public by working in Direct Client Contact, also a part of the Intake Section.



Sonya states that with the help of her coworkers and supervisors, her last three years of service have been a pleasant experience. Sonya developed a love and respect for those with whom she has worked and cherishes many memories. Sonya also acknowledged her son, Frank IV and her late husband, Frank III, for being a major part of her success.

Congratulations, Sonya!



Thursday's Child For Information Call 513.632.6366

Birth date: September 2, 1999



If you want to believe in miracles, just get to know Perion! He is a miracle in the making.

Due to meningitis as an infant, Perion has severe developmental and physical delays. But due to a loving and dedicated foster family, this special little boy has made great strides. He is now learning to stand with help, and has hopes of walking one day. His communication skills are improving.

Perion enjoys looking at and turning pages in his favorite books. He also has an ear for Mozart and other classical music. School is one of his favorite places.

Perion is charming, funny, and has a sense of humor. He also likes to show off, and is a flirt.

Perion needs a supportive family who will continue to develop his physical and mental skills.

MSD Receives Award

The Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) and Fuller, Mossbarger, Scott and May Engineers, Inc. (FMSM) received an Engineering Excellence Honor Award for the Regional Storm Water Program developed for Hamilton County. The award, presented by the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), recognizes projects that demonstrate a high degree of achievement, value, and ingenuity in the engineering field.

Developed through a unique partnership between 44 county communities, the Board of Commissioners, MSD, and FMSM, the program created a means through which the communities could effectively manage the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) storm water

permit requirements and, at the same time, reduce costs.

NPDES storm water permits are essentially storm water quality plans that establish measures to address non-point water sources (such as agricultural, urban, and construction site run-off) that can discharge pollutants into the environment.

"U.S. EPA regulations required that communities obtain NPDES storm water permits by March 10, 2003," said Project Manager Jim Rozelle, a senior water resource engineer for FMSM. "However, many of the local communities in the county did not have the resources or

the expertise to meet the permit requirements. Thus, we teamed together to find a way to successfully address the situation."

The solution was to combine resources by organizing the individual communities into a single Storm Water District, using a recent modification to the Ohio Revised Code. The newly created district then obtained a multi-community NPDES permit on which each community is listed as a co-permittee. The cost of the five year program will average less than \$1 million annually. If each community had individually complied with the NPDES requirements, the annual cost would have been nearly \$3 million.

"It is an excellent example of successful regional cooperation. The new Storm Water District may be the first of its kind in the state, and I think it is a good model that can be used by other

Ohio communities in this same situation," said Pat Karney, MSD Director.

The ACEC Engineering Awards are given annually. Projects from all over the world are rated on the basis of uniqueness; originality; future value to the engineering profession; social, economic, and sustainable development considerations; complexity; and successful fulfillment of client's needs, including schedule and budget.

Every day, MSD manages the effective collection and treatment of more than 200 million gallons of wastewater and actively maintains 3,000 miles of sanitary and combined sewers that run through the 49 municipalities and townships of Hamilton County.

"It [THE STORM WATER DISTRICT] IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF SUCCESSFUL REGIONAL COOPERATION."

**~PAT KARNEY
MSD DIRECTOR**

Sink Into Waterfest

Waterfest is an all day conference designed to help educate fourth and fifth grade students about water quality and other related resources. The annual event will take place on April 21, at the Cincinnati Convention Center.



To make the day a success, we need over 150 volunteers. Come out and lead groups of students around the many different presentations and shows. Help out in the exhibit hall or assist one of the presenters.

All volunteers receive free breakfast and lunch plus a Waterfest t-shirt.

If you would like to volunteer, check with your supervisor, then complete the volunteer application form found at the Department of Environmental Services website — www.hcdoes.org, or call Errin Howard at 946.7737.

Hamilton County Recycles!

How do you recycle? Any type of paper can be recycled through the County Administration Building's recycling program, including colored office paper, manila and colored folders, magazines, copy paper wrap. All you have to do is place your paper in your desk-side recycling container. When your container is full, deposit the paper in your office's large recycling container (typically located by the copy machine).

Why should you recycle? Through recycling, you are:

- * **Saving natural resources.** Every ton of recycled paper conserves the equivalent of 17 trees worth of lumber.
- * **Saving energy.** Paper recycling in the U.S. saves 17 billion gallons of oil.

- * **Decreasing pollution.** Paper recycling in the U.S. prevents 2.2 billion pounds of air pollution.
- * **Helping Ohio's economy!** 3.7% of Ohio's gross state product is attributable to the recycling industry.

It is important not to put items other than paper in your recycling bin. These are considered contaminants. When contaminants are put in your recycling bin, your fellow county employees have to remove them, possibly causing injuries. Please remember not to throw in plastic, food, soda cans, candy wrappers, or any other trash with your paper recycling.

If you have any questions about recycling, please do not hesitate to call Environmental Services at 946.7734.

Yoga - Anyone?

The Sixth Street Studio will instruct yoga classes for county employees beginning April 19.

Two classes will be held each Monday, 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and 12:30 to 1:15 p.m., in Room 805, County Administration Building.

The cost of a six week session is \$14. The two classes are limited to 30 participants. Those employees who responded to our previous yoga story will be given the opportunity to join the first six week session. If you did not respond previously, but you are interested in joining the yoga class, your name will be added to a waiting list.

You can register by e-mail to sharon.booker@hamilton-co.org.

Call Sharon at 946.4428 if you have questions.

National Social Worker Month

March is National Social Worker Month — a time to express appreciation to those who work to better our county, one person at a time.

According to Stefanie Polacheck, a Children's Services investigator, as a social worker, "You definitely need to be culturally aware ... you can't let your own opinion get in the way. You must be compassionate, perceptive, honest, and organized. And you have to have the ability to leave work at work and take time for yourself to relax."

The National Association of Social Workers adopted the theme, "The Power of Social Work: Pass It On." Social workers pass on the power of their work to the people they help; the purpose of social work to the community; and the passion of social work from one generation of social workers to the next.

Social workers everywhere deserve our appreciation this month and always!

Greater Cincinnati To Be Added To 'Most Livable' List

The Chamber of Commerce announced Partners for Livable Communities will, on April 20, name the Greater Cincinnati region one of the "Most Livable" cities in the United States. Greater Cincinnati was chosen because of its success in blending culture, rich heritage and the arts, with social and economic initiatives that create an exceptional quality of life.

Esquire Magazine recently named Cincinnati No. 7 on their Top 10 list of "Cities That Rock."

"Got News?"
 send an email to
sharon.booker@hamilton-co.org
 Deadline: March 22.

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month

April is the 21st anniversary of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month. Ohio's theme is: *Attention Adults: You Are The Key To Preventing Child Abuse And Neglect.*

Children's Services, the county's child protection agency, counts on the community to help prevent child abuse. Learn the signs of child abuse and neglect. Reach out to families in trouble. Call the county's child abuse and neglect reporting line — 241-KIDS.

In Hamilton County, caseworkers investigate about 6,000 reports of abuse and neglect yearly. It's a big problem; one that

requires a widespread response.

The behavior of children may signal abuse or neglect long before any change in physical appearance. Signs may include:

- ◆ Nervousness around adults
- ◆ Aggression toward adults or other children
- ◆ Inability to stay awake or to concentrate for extended periods
- ◆ Sudden, dramatic changes in personality or activities
- ◆ Unnatural interest in sex
- ◆ Unexplained bruises or injuries

- ◆ Low self-esteem

If you see these signs in any children you know, reach out to them and to their parents and offer a helping hand.

Five things you can do *right now* to help prevent child abuse and neglect:

1. Reach out.
2. Raise the issue.
3. Remember the risk factors.
4. Recognize the warning signs.
5. Report suspected abuse or neglect.

You are the key to prevention.



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.