



# Hello, Hamilton County

E-News for Hamilton County Residents and Staff

March 31, 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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## Hamilton County To Be AED Equipped

You will soon see automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) in several of the county's downtown area buildings. AEDs are life-saving devices that evaluate the heart performance of an unconscious person who has no pulse, and can deliver an electrical shock that helps the heart regain a normal rhythm. The use of AEDs has proven to reduce deaths from sudden cardiac arrest which kills approximately 250,000 Americans each year.

AEDs are being placed in wall mounted cabinets in the County Administration Building, Courthouse, 222 East Central Parkway, Justice Center, 230 East Ninth Street, 800 Broadway, 237 William

*When an individual appears to require emergency assistance, of any kind, call 9-1-1 immediately.*

Howard Taft Road and 250 William Howard Taft Road.

What can you do to help? If you encounter an individual who appears

to require emergency assistance, of any kind, call 9-1-1 immediately. If the person is unconscious, quickly get the AED. A trained person should administer care as needed. Currently, over 150 Hamilton county employees are certified in CPR and AED.

Also contributing to the AED program are the employees who have volunteered to serve as AED liaisons. The liaisons will ensure that response team

members maintain their CPR and AED certifications, and will also routinely check the AED equipment and supplies.

Commissioner Portune expressed his pride in the employees who have volunteered to make the program a success. “We have over 150 employees who are currently CPR and AED certified, and liaisons have been identified from several county departments. Our program could not be implemented without them.”

“Many of our elected officials are supporting the implementation of our AED program,” said Commissioner Dowlin. “We needed the support of these officials and our top

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Since 2002, employees have been earning AED certification in County Personnel's HRD CPR classes. This is possible thanks to the employees who serve as adjunct instructors for the CPR program. They are:

- \* Susan Bauer, Facilities
- \* Mary Couzins, Clerk of Courts
- \* Tina Hamilton, Juvenile Court
- \* Jean Hicks, Health District
- \* Dawn Mays, Environmental Services
- \* Patti Schweikert, Health District
- \* Patty Strickland, Law Library
- \* Mike Wahoff, Sheriff

## 25 Year Service Pins Awarded



Brenda Eakins began employment with Job and Family

Services in 1979, as an Income Maintenance worker. After 12 years in that position, Brenda was transferred to Ohio Work Programs, and in April 2002, transferred again to her current position.

Brenda now assists adults and children in completing applications for Social Security and assists in accessing needed social services. Brenda is a member of AFSCME Local 1768, and has served as steward, secretary, and president.

Congratulations, Brenda!



Barbara Williams began employment

with Job and Family Services in 1979, at Allen House as a matron. She quickly advanced to the position activity aide, then to therapeutic group specialist. Barbara is now an eligibility technician, determining eligibility for assistance programs for families. Barbara is chief union steward for AFSCME Local 1768, representing over 1,000 employees.

Congratulations, Barbara!

## Rotary County Government Day

On March 9, the Rotary Club of Cincinnati sponsored the 44th Annual County Government Seminar. Area junior and senior high school students participated in the seminar to learn the workings of local county government.

Presentations were made by:

- John Dowlin, Commissioner
- Dave Krings, Administrator and Staff
- Rebecca Prem Groppe, Recorder



- Mike Allen, Prosecutor
- Dr. Carl Parrott, Jr., Coroner
- Simon Leis, Jr., Sheriff



In addition to the presentations, students toured the Justice Center.

Thanks to Jay Schuermann and Greg Smith, of the Rotary Club, for organizing this event.

## AEDs from page 1

managers, and they encouraged their employees to participate."

In answer to why Hamilton County moved forward with an AED program, Commissioner Heimlich said, "Quality customer service is very important to us. Our customers are all who enter our buildings, including our employees."

The implementation of the AED program makes our county buildings safer, and that's a great benefit for employees and the public.

If you have questions about the county's AED program, contact Sharon Booker, 946.4428.

## AED Liaisons

Thanks to our AED liaisons.

- ◆ Mark Combs  
Court of Appeals
- ◆ Blaine Gilmore  
JFS
- ◆ Paul Hasan  
Veterans' Services
- ◆ Laura Maus  
HRD
- ◆ Dale Menkhaus  
Sheriff
- ◆ Brad Miller  
DOES
- ◆ Janet Roedel  
Prosecutor
- ◆ Reggie Sawyer  
JFS
- ◆ Susan Silver  
Auditor
- ◆ Scott Weikel  
Probate Court



## Thursday's Child For Information Call 513.632.6366

**Birth date: June 1993**



Malcolm

Malcolm is an energetic, intelligent and courteous child. He enjoys reading adventure, fantasy and animal books. Malcolm likes to draw faces, portraits and animals, sometimes even sculpting them. When outside, you might find Malcolm playing basketball, baseball, football, hiking, climbing trees or camping. Malcolm also enjoys playing board, card and video games.

Malcolm's favorite foods are bologna sandwiches with potato chips, and pizza. He likes to watch *Yu-Gi-Oh*, *Spider-man* and *Hey Arnold* on television. Malcolm likes music and sings in the choir at church. Hip-hop music is his favorite. Malcolm says when he grows up he wants to be a fire-fighter or a musician and play a violin. Malcolm is educationally on target and likes going to school.

Malcolm needs a loving, supportive family that will help him achieve his true potential and lifelong goals. He needs to maintain contact with his siblings.

## Children's Services Worker Wins Award



Sarah Harperink

Sara Harperink, residential treatment worker at Job and Family Services, was awarded Best Customer Service and Multi-County System Agencies (MCSA) "Worker of the Year."

Ms. Harperink was presented the award at the First Annual Choices Awards Ceremony held at the College Hill Presbyterian Church. The awards program recognized and honored exemplary community members and organizations.

Hamilton Choices manages an integrated care system for about 300 youth and adolescents. It is

funded by five public agencies that make up the MCSA:

- ◆ Job and Family Services
- ◆ Juvenile Court
- ◆ Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
- ◆ Community Mental Health Board
- ◆ Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board.

The event was attended by providers, system representatives, and community members.

Congratulations, Sara! We are proud to have such an outstanding employee in Hamilton County.

## Business Center Graduates

Several companies have graduated from the Hamilton County Business Center (HCBC). Among the recent graduates are:

- ArtSpike Media Company ([www.artspike.net](http://www.artspike.net))  
An alternative art and culture media bi-weekly newspaper
- Domain-It! ([www.domainit.com](http://www.domainit.com))  
A domain registration and Web hosting company
- My Girl Friday ([www.Egirlfriday.com](http://www.Egirlfriday.com))  
An upscale concierge service that caters to the executive

HCBC is a private, nonprofit business incubation program that serves the Greater Cincinnati marketplace. HCBC has

been the home of more than 180 business start-ups since 1989, and offers entrepreneurs flexible space, administrative services, business counseling, and a supportive environment.

"Providing guidance and direction, but not making the decisions for the entrepreneur, is the most valuable technical assistance we offer," said Hamilton County Development Company President, David Main.

We congratulate each of the entrepreneurs who recently graduated and we send best wishes.

For more information about HCBC, contact Patrick Longo at 631.8292 or e-mail [longo@hcdd.com](mailto:longo@hcdd.com).

## Common Pleas Mediation Office Moves To Courthouse

On March 1, Common Pleas Mediation Service (CPMS) moved to Room 450 of the courthouse. The move is the culmination of many months of work among several county agencies and vendors.

County Facilities managed the project from design through construction using Common Pleas Court funds. The project was completed on time and within budget. Diana Weber, Facilities Project Manager, managed the project with input from Norton B. Roberts, Director of CPMS.



The new space has been designed to provide a fitting atmosphere for mediation. The walls have original oil paintings of Mary Florez, mother of mediator, Roz Florez. Roz and Toni Barnett, Mediation Services secretary, were instrumental in choosing the colors, fabrics, and furnis-

ings in the new office.

For more than six years prior to the move to the courthouse, CPMS shared space in the Taft Center with Private Complaint Mediation Service (PCMS). As PCMS began to conduct more daytime mediations, it became clear that sharing space would eventually lead to scheduling conflicts. CPMS began working with the county space committee, looking at several options for relocation. By April, 2003, approvals had been given for the move to the courthouse.

At that point, CPMS staff worked closely with Facilities and vendors to plan the steps leading to the move. From asbestos abatement to final move-in took about six months. Construction included building new walls; installing a new HVAC system and new ceiling; laying carpet-



ing and painting. The space is welcoming and comfortable. Staff members and users of CPMS services are pleased with the new facility. The six mediation rooms are designed to facilitate negotiation.



"The space is very conducive to working with the parties and creates a relaxed atmosphere for the parties to focus on the issues of their case," said Rob Black, volunteer mediator.

CPMS provides mediation services for cases that have been filed in the Court of Common Pleas. To learn more about CPMS and mediation, visit the website at [www.hamilton-co.org/common\\_pleas/mediation.htm](http://www.hamilton-co.org/common_pleas/mediation.htm).

## Elder Abuse Prevention

A son slaps his 80-year-old mother for urinating on the carpet. A 75-year-old retired teacher forgets the boiling soup and the kitchen catches on fire. A husband loves his 82-year-old bedridden wife, but he's too weak to lift her to change soiled bed sheets.

These snapshots illustrate the complex and growing problem of elder abuse. Adult Protective Services (APS) investigates 800 abuse, neglect, exploitation and self-neglect referrals a year. The county's abuse and neglect reporting line receives approximately 280 calls a month.

"We urge everyone in the community to help prevent elder abuse, neglect and exploitation," says Phyllis J. Brown, JFS section chief in charge of APS. "Learn the warning signs. Reach out to an older neighbor in need."

State law requires APS to investigate reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation of the elderly. APS caseworkers evaluate reports and make recommendations for support services as needed. They also meet with the client and family members to discuss the report.

"We have to respond to every report of an allegation of abuse or neglect," Brown said. "However, we cannot require older residents to take specific actions if they are mentally competent. Some feel we should step in, but legally we can't. There are limitations to what we can do."

According to a resolution passed by Governor Taft, there were 10,000 reported cases of abuse, neglect and exploitation in Ohio between July 2001 and June 2002.

The reports involved individuals 60 and older. The average victim of elder abuse is female, 75, living alone, and in poor health as a result of major physical or mental impairment.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates there are 35 million people 65 or older living in the United States. This number is expected to increase to 70.3 million by 2030. Warning signs of abuse include:

### Physical abuse

- ◆ Change in behavior
- ◆ Cuts, bruises, burns
- ◆ Confinement
- ◆ Isolation

### Psychological Abuse

- ◆ Depression
- ◆ Change in behavior or attitude
- ◆ Isolation
- ◆ Fear/anxiety

### Neglect/Self Neglect

- ◆ Mental confusion
- ◆ Poor hygiene
- ◆ Poor environment
- ◆ Inadequate health care
- ◆ Inability to perform daily tasks of living

### Exploitation

- ◆ Unusual bank withdrawals
- ◆ Change in power of attorney
- ◆ Different signatures on checks

If you suspect abuse, call 421.LIFE.

## Reds' Ticket Drawing

Hamilton County is offering its residents a chance to see a Reds game from the county's Great American Ball Park suite! Residents can register for the drawing on-line, [www.hamilton-co.org](http://www.hamilton-co.org), or by phone, 946.3939. Winners will be selected through random drawings.



Pictured at the March 2 drawing are Commissioner Todd Portune, Rob Fredericks, Amy Nickerson, and Terry Evans.

The county's suite will accommodate ten people for each game, allowing five individual winners and her/his guest to attend the game. If you have questions, contact Amy Nickerson, 946.4304. **April 5 is Opening Day!**

### "Got News?"

send an email to  
[sharon.booker@hamilton-co.org](mailto:sharon.booker@hamilton-co.org)  
Deadline: April 12.



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](http://www.hamilton-co.org) and click on the green "Newsletter" button.