



# Hello, Hamilton County

E-News for Hamilton County Residents and Staff

April 16, 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:

<b>Concealed Carry Law</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Moira Weir Appointed</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Small Business</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Photography Contest</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Thursday's Child</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Foster Parent Appreciation</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Computer Collection Event</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Allergies</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>MSD Symposium</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>AEDs</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Ohio Forestry Camp</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Reds' Ticket Drawing</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>MRDD Awards Banquet</b>	<b>4</b>

## Hamilton County Prepares For Ohio's Concealed Carry Law

Ohio's Concealed Carry Law, in effect since April 8, allows qualifying Ohioans to carry concealed weapons after completing the following requirements:

- ◆ Complete a 12-hour mandatory training which includes two hours of firearm shooting.
- ◆ Obtain an application from the sheriff's office or from the Ohio Attorney General's Office.
- ◆ Make an appointment with the sheriff's office to submit the completed application, along with a current 2" x 2" photograph, evidence of completed firearms training

and valid identification. At the appointment, the applicant will be fingerprinted and charged a \$45 application fee.

- ◆ The sheriff will complete a background check and has 45 days to either issue or decline the application.

Employees and visitors are warned that the Ohio Revised Code prohibits the possession of firearms in any county building, even if a permit has been obtained. Weapons are not permitted in county vehicles or personal vehicles when on county business. An employee may not possess a firearm while engaged in county business at any location, with the

exception of a law enforcement officer acting in his or her official capacity.

Temporary signs are currently being posted on all county properties stating, "It is illegal to carry a firearm, deadly weapon, or dangerous ordinance anywhere on the premises." Permanent signage will be in place later this year.

To learn more about this new law and to see a list of disqualifying factors, visit the Ohio Attorney General's website at [www.ag.state.oh.us](http://www.ag.state.oh.us), and click on the "Ohio Concealed Carry" button, or visit the Sheriff's website at [www.hcso.org](http://www.hcso.org) and click on "Concealed Carry Law Information."

### Free Yardwaste Drop-off Sites

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

West: Kuliga Park, 6717 Bridgetown Road, Green Township

East: Evans Landscaping, 3700 Roundbottom Road, Newtown

Sites are open Saturdays and Sundays, 11:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. until November 14.

## Moira Weir Appointed Assistant Agency Director At JFS



Job and Family Services' Director, Suzanne Burke, announced April 14, the promotion of Moira Weir (pictured) to the position assistant agency director. Effective April 22, Ms. Weir will assume

responsibility for child support, workforce development, and benefit recovery files.

"I'm excited to have Moira join the executive team," said Ms. Burke. "She brings a great deal of experience, as well as a unique educational background with master's degrees in both social work and business administration."

An interview panel unanimously chose Ms. Weir, and a separate group that scored a written exam also gave her top ratings.

Moira has served as Children's Services Intake/Assessment section chief since 2002.

Previously, she was section chief of support and adult services and the integrated services business unit.

"I'm glad for this opportunity," said Ms. Weir. "I have benefited from many years of experience with many incredible leaders, and talented and experienced staff."

Congratulations, Moira!

## Small Business Vendors Market Businesses to Hamilton County

The Office of Small Business Development will hold its third Face-to-Face Forum on Thursday, May 6, at Paul Brown Stadium, 9:00 a.m. until noon.



chasers and refreshments will be provided. Interested buyers should register with Maureen Witwer, 946.2232 or maureen.witwer@hamilton-co.org, no later than April 28.

Contact Bernice L. Walker, Esq., Director of Small Business Development, for more information about the Face-to-Face Forum and the Small Business Program at 946.4323 or bernice.walker@hamilton-co.org.

County purchasers interested in learning more about the goods and/or services small businesses want to sell to the county should attend.

Participation is limited to 40 vendors registered with the Small Business Program. The registration form may be downloaded from the county's website, [www.hamilton-co.org/DAS/sbe1.htm](http://www.hamilton-co.org/DAS/sbe1.htm).

Admission is free for county pur-

**"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."**

~Winston Churchill

## Air Quality Photography Contest

The Department of Environmental Services, Air Quality Management Division is having a photography contest for amateur photographers who are residents of Southwest Ohio.

There will be a competition for both adults and juniors (under the age of 18) in each of the following three categories:

- ♦ **Air Pollution** — show why clean air is needed
- ♦ **Clean Air** — capture a beautiful clear day or actions that help clean the air
- ♦ **Making Air Visible** — use your imagination and make air visible to everyone



Entries are due no later than Friday, July 30.

Each photographer may submit up to five entries. All entries must have an entry form attached.

For more information, contest rules or an entry form, visit [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org) or call 946.7747.

*"Photography takes an instant out of time, altering life by holding it still." ~ Dorothea Lange*



## Thursday's Child For Information Call 513.632.6366



Darnae and Joless

### Birth years:

**Darnae ~ 1992 and Joless ~ 1993**

Darnae and Joless are active young ladies who will add much joy to any home. Both girls keep very busy with activities. They are both involved in the Girl Scouts and karate, as well as the school choir. Darnae is also on the school track team.

Both girls have been in counseling to address their past abuse issues and are currently taking medication to assist their behaviors. Darnae has a diagnosis of ADHD, PTSD, Oppositional Defiant Disorder and Reactive Attachment Disorder. Joless has a diagnosis of ADHD and Adjustment Disorder. The girls have made significant progress in their foster home as they have maintained their current placement for three years.

Darnae and Joless are in need of a permanent family. Could you be the one for them?

## National Foster Parent Appreciation Month



May presents an excellent opportunity for us to thank the 400 plus Job and Family Services-licensed foster families who care for approximately 1,000 children in the county's public child protection system.

National Foster Parent Appreciation Month also provides a good chance for us to educate (or re-educate) ourselves about foster care. Take a minute to visit [www.hcjfs.org](http://www.hcjfs.org) and click on Foster & Adoptive Parents for more information, or visit [www.hcfooster.org](http://www.hcfooster.org).

Hamilton County desperately needs more foster homes. If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, please call 632.6366.

On May 7, noon, JFS will honor foster parents during the annual Foster Care Day on Fountain Square.

*Ways you can help support children, youth and families . . .*

- ♦ Be a foster parent
- ♦ Be a volunteer child advocate
- ♦ Mentor a youth

## Annual Computer Collection Event

The Solid Waste Management District (District) will conduct their Third Annual Computer Recycling Collection Event at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds April 15-17, 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and 8:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on Saturday. The event is free.

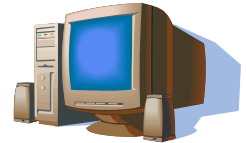
Although the Spring Event is full, interested parties can register for the Fall Collection Event, scheduled to take place August 26-28. Register by visiting [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org).

The event has been expanded to include Butler, Clermont, and Northern Kentucky counties and is open to businesses, residents, nonprofit organizations and schools. Approximately 180 businesses and 190 residents are signed up for the spring event, to bring

over 110 tons of obsolete computers and equipment.

Items accepted at the collection event include PC workstations, mainframes, scanners, monitors, cables, servers, printers, tape/disk drives, cellular phones, and other peripherals.

Last year, over 100 tons



of computers were collected. The old computers were sent to the Ohio Prison Industries to get a new lease on life. Hard drives were erased and computers were mined for parts or refurbished and sent to nonprofits and schools.

For more information, call the District at 946.7732 or visit [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org).

## Acting Against Allergies

If you suffer from seasonal allergies, you may have already begun to notice symptoms reappearing this spring season. Allergy season officially lasts through fall, but pollen and mold counts generally peak during the spring. The most common spring allergy is allergic rhinitis, more commonly known as hay fever. Hay fever symptoms include sneezing, itching watery eyes, nasal congestion and headaches.

If you are one of the 35 million Americans who suffer from seasonal allergies, here are some tips to help you survive the season with fewer allergy problems.

- \* Pollen counts are highest between 5 and 10 a.m., while mold spore counts are highest in the afternoon. Avoid going outdoors during these times, depending on which allergen affects you more.
- \* Wear a filter mask when mowing grass.
- \* Run an air conditioner to keep humid-

ity levels low, and make sure the filter is changed every 30 days.

- \* Check the weather forecast if you plan to be outside for extended periods of time.
- \* Tree pollen is the largest allergen producer in the spring, while grass pollen affects the most people in the summer, and ragweed counts are highest in the fall. Knowing what allergens are present at different times helps you avoid the most common irritants.

Taking simple precautions like the ones mentioned above can limit your allergy problems this season.

For more information, visit [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org) or [www.aaaai.org/springallergy](http://www.aaaai.org/springallergy).



## Symposium Hosted By MSD

Experts from across the country are coming to Hamilton County April 22 and 23 to share their knowledge and experience with managing multi-billion dollar construction programs at a symposium hosted by the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD).

The symposium is aimed primarily at public utility representatives, as well as engineering consultants likely to be involved in related projects. However, representatives from any organization dealing with major capital investment and construction programs are welcome to attend.

The symposium will be held at the Marriott Kingsgate Conference Hotel. Registration is \$200 per person. Those interested in attending should contact Maria Turner, 244.1303.

Additional information and a registration form are available on the MSD website at [www.msdbg.org](http://www.msdbg.org).

## AED Locations

Have you located the automatic external defibrillator (AED) equipment in your county building? Do you know your AED Liaison (see list of liaisons in the March 31 issue of *Hello, Hamilton County*, page 2)?

Hamilton County is well equipped for medical emergencies requiring CPR or the use of AED equipment. Thanks to the AED committee for the many hours sacrificed to compose our program.

Sharon Booker  
 Sharon Chamberlin  
 Tim Grabenstein  
 Blaine Gilmore  
 Laura Maus  
 Dale Menkhous  
 Reggie Sawyer

## MRDD Banquet

Hundreds of enthusiastic supporters filled the Sharonville Convention Center in March to attend the Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) Third Annual Awards Banquet. Volunteers, contracted providers, businesses, self advocates, and staff were honored for helping MRDD fulfill its mission of supporting individuals and their families to achieve what is important to them.

"This event helps us celebrate the capabilities of individuals with MRDD, as well as honor a few of the wonderful people in our community who support them," said Cheryl Phipps, Superintendent.

A silent auction, organized by volunteers, raised more than \$5,000 for the 2004 Mental Retardation Services Tax Levy Campaign Fund.

## Ohio Forestry Camp

The Soil and Water Conservation District (District) is looking for one teenager, 15 years of age and has completed the 8th grade, who would like to attend Forestry Camp.

The Forestry Camp will be held at Camp Muskingum, Leesville Lake, Carroll County, on June 13-18. Programs on forestry, tree identification, and silviculture will be provided by resource professionals.



If interested, teenagers must write a short essay telling why he/she would like to attend the camp. Essays are to be mailed to:

Soil and Water Conservation District  
 29 Triangle Park Drive  
 Cincinnati, OH 45246

Essays must be received no later than May 1.

Once a winner is announced, he/she will then complete an application and pay a \$30 deposit. The District will pay the \$190 camp fee.

The winner will also be invited to the District's annual meeting in September to give a short overview of their week at camp.



## 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.

The next drawing will be held at the Public Service Recognition Celebration, May 5, on Fountain Square. If you have questions, call Amy Nickerson, 946.4304.

Pictured above, l-r, are: Cheryl Willis, Cheri Wiggins, Rob Fredericks, and Amy Nickerson.

**"Got News?"**  
 Send an email to  
[sharon.booker@hamilton-co.org](mailto:sharon.booker@hamilton-co.org)  
 Deadline for  
 next issue:  
 April 26.



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.