



Hello, Hamilton County

E-News for Hamilton County Residents and Staff

April 30, 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 Receives 17 NACIO Awards of Excellence

The county received notice on April 29, from the National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO) that 17 NACIO Awards of Excellence were granted the county in the 2004 competition.

Superior award winner

Board of Mental Retardation and Development Disabilities
1. *Community Relations Plan 2003*

Excellence Award winners

Environmental Services
2. *All About Air—A Comprehensive Air Quality Guidebook*
3. *The Breeze—An Air Quality Community Newsletter*
4. *The WasteLine Newsletter*. Regional Planning
5. *The Vision for Hamilton County's Future*

6. *Update the Planning Partnership Newsletter*
7. *State of the County Report Series: Community COMPASS*
8. *Census 2000 Community Profiles: Political Jurisdictions of Hamilton County*
Administrative Services
9. *Great American Ball Park Public Involvement Projects and Strategy*

Meritorious award winners

Regional Planning
10. *The Planning Partnership Annual Report 2003*
11. *Mired in the Inertia of Sprawl* Personnel
12. *Hamilton County Personnel Department 2003 Annual Report* County Administration
13. *Hello Hamilton County*

Environmental Services
14. *Get a Bin Cinema Advertising*
Personnel, Human Resources Development
15. *Hamilton County HRD's "Opportunities" Newsletter* Administrative Services
16. *Great American Ball Park Open House*
Job and Family Services
17. *Childcare Provider Forum*

“Hamilton County employees consistently strive for excellence, as is proven by the awarding of 17 Awards of Excellence in the NACIO competition,” stated Commission President John Dowlin. “We are very proud of and salute our staff members.”

Public Service Recognition Week will be celebrated on Fountain Square May 5, 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Several county departments will have displays at the event, and our Employees of the Year will be recognized.

Plan to stop by to view the displays and to congratulate our Employees of the Year.

John Young Joins JFS Executive Team



Job and Family Services (JFS) Welfare Reform Executive John Young

joined the agency's Executive Team this month.

Young assumes responsibility for community affairs, with an

emphasis on relationships with key social service providers. He plans to devote a share of his time to problem solving with that vital agency stakeholder group. “They play an important part in our service delivery system — often providing services that we are unable to offer,” he says.

Young will also lead an effort to create a strategic plan for the agency. “We will be looking for agreement in the community about the agency's vision, mission

and goals,” Young said. “Creation of this plan will help us see how we can better relate to the community and how the community can relate to us. It will help us come together to improve things.”

Young is developing a framework for the planning process. He intends to involve a broad range of stakeholders, including a variety of JFS employees.

Congratulations, John!

2004 SWCD Photo Contest

"The Bounty From Our Soil" is the theme for the 2004 Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) photo contest.

The following information is for those interested in participating in the contest:

1. All high quality, color, close-up, mid-range, and landscape photographs of any food or fiber crop or products from Hamilton County will be considered.
2. Individuals may submit up to three color photographs for consideration. Digital images will be accepted on disc and must be in a .jpeg format.
3. There will be two age categories for submission. The Junior Category is for students below the age of 19 and still attending secondary school. The Senior Category is age 19 or older. First prize for each



- category is \$100 and second prize is \$50.
4. Images will be judged on composition, technical excellence, originality, color and overall impact. Each entry will be blind judged as the name and location of the entrant will be hidden from the judges. The decisions of the judges are final.
 5. In order to ensure the highest quality images for the cover of the Annual Report, the winning photographers will be asked to provide a high-resolution file of their photograph.
 6. All winning photos become the property of SWCD.

Deadline for submission is August 1. Mail photographs with name, address, daytime telephone and location of photograph to:

Hamilton County SWCD
29 Triangle Park Drive
Suite 2901
Cincinnati, OH 45246-3411

"Got News?"

Is there a newsworthy event taking place in your department that you would like to share with other county employees and county residents?

Send an email to
sharon.booker@
hamilton-co.org.

Deadline for next issue:
May 10.



Thursday's Child
For Information Call 513.632.6366

Birth years: Trayvonne ~ April 1994
Tramaine ~ February 1996

Trayvonne and Tramaine are charming boys. They are respectful, intelligent and courteous to others. Trayvonne and Tramaine enjoy reading fantasy and *Yugo* books. They enjoy playing football and basketball on local community teams. When it comes to drawing, they like to draw *Yugo*, *Pokemon*, cars and monsters.

Trayvonne likes to play the offense position for the football team. Both enjoy fishing, tag and playing with remote control cars. They agree that their favorite food is pizza. Trayvonne and Tramaine like to watch the television show *Yugo*. They also enjoy listening to rap and rhythm and blues music. Trayvonne and Tramaine are educationally on target. Tramaine enjoys attending school.



Trayvonne & Tramaine

These two siblings are close and enjoy each other's company. They like to play together. They will need to attend ongoing therapy sessions due to separation issues. These two boys need a loving, caring family to help them realize their fullest potential and achieve their goals.

Transparent Budget Award

Hamilton County has been awarded The Performance Institute's Transparent Budget Award.

The Transparent Budget Award recognizes municipalities that have integrated performance data into budgets and increased the

overall transparency for cost of government service.

The county was selected because its:

- ◆ Budget is organized by program activity with performance data integrated throughout.
- ◆ Activity-based costing system benefits the public through a clear identification of the costs of government services.
- ◆ Performance measures include an objective, demand,



workload, efficiency/cost measure, and effectiveness/outcome measure.

- ◆ Budget provides information on the impact of budget cuts.
- ◆ Program measures are linked to departmentwide and countywide goals and mission.
- ◆ Hiring requests require department to present justification measures.
- ◆ Departments must assess how resource allocations affect service delivery.

Congratulations to the Department of Administrative Services and each of our departmental budget staff persons.

The Performance Institute is a private think tank that serves as an authority on performance-based management practices for government agencies.

Mt. Airy Center Wins Grant

Mt. Airy Center, a facility for homeless men operated by Job and Family Services (JFS) became financially self-sufficient by winning a long-sought grant from the Veteran's Administration (VA).

JFS was notified by VA that the Mt. Airy Center has been awarded a grant that pays \$157,388 per year. The grant pays \$26.95 per day per veteran, for up to 16 beds, through 2007.

The center's administration is extremely pleased by the award. Administrator Kimberly Hauser and staff at the center have applied for the grant four times.

With the additional funding, the center will not need about \$101,400 in county shared-revenue funds. Grants and disability assistance will cover operating expenses. A \$122,000 grant comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Mt. Airy Center was one of three Ohio facilities, and one of 80 nationally, to receive the VA grant.

The center houses 65 residents, about four in ten are veterans. Twelve JFS employees staff the facility.

Congratulations to Ms. Hauser and the JFS staff.

Pilot Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program

Last fall, the Solid Waste Management District held two household hazardous waste collection events. Because of the success of these programs, this year, the District is implementing a permanent household hazardous waste facility.



Beginning May 4, county residents can drop off their hazardous products from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday through

Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. At the end of the program, the results will be compared to those of the one-day collection events. This will help determine how the hazardous household waste disposal needs of county residents are best met.

Residents can participate in the pilot program by calling 946.7734, or sending an e-mail to susan.schumacher@hamilton-co.org to request a voucher. The voucher allows residents to drop off hazardous household waste at the permanent facility.

Vouchers are free and required to participate.

The average home has 60 to 100 pounds of hazardous products stored under the sink, in the garage or in the basement. Having a site for residents to drop off these unsafe products helps prevent accidental poisoning, environmental damage and injury to waste handlers. Acceptable items for the household hazardous waste drop-off facility include:

- automotive fluids
- pesticides/fertilizers
- solvents/thinners
- lawn/pool chemicals
- cleaners
- batteries
- paint



Visit www/hcdoes.org for more information.

A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark.

Consider becoming a mentor.

How Can We Better Serve You?

Do you have suggestions as to how we can make *Hello, Hamilton County* better?

Send your suggestions via e-mail to sharon.booker@hamilton-co.org.

Mayerson Center Receives Top Award

The Mayerson Center for Safety and Healthy Children received the National Crime Victims' Rights Week Commitment to Crime Victims' Award.

The center is located at Children's Hospital and houses the Job and Family Services Sex Abuse Investigations Team.

This was the only award given during the April 21 ceremony that featured comments by top city and county officials. Each year, the National Crime Victims' Rights Week committee honors systems or agencies that aid victims of crime.

The four-year-old Mayerson Center combines activities at Children's Hospital that focus on child abuse into one coordinated group working in a single location. It also brings together community groups, such as Children's Services, law enforcement, prosecutors, child therapists and researchers, to collaborate the investigation and treatment of victims.

Traci Marr, of Children's Services, supervises a team of six sex abuse investigators housed in the center. Mary Eck's team also investigates cases at the center.

"We work cooperatively with Children's Hospital staff, law enforcement, prosecutors and others to expedite the diagnosis and investigation of child abuse," Marr says. "This causes less trauma for victims and families. It's gratifying to have our efforts honored."

The Dreaded "O" Word — Ozone

We hear a lot of contradictions about ozone. One minute it's a good thing; the next it's bad. Many are left wondering, which is it? The answer — it's all a matter of location.

Ozone is a gas that occurs in two layers of the atmosphere called the stratosphere and the troposphere. The stratosphere is the layer far away from earth. Ozone is naturally formed here and acts as our sunscreen, providing us protection from the sun's intense UV rays.

The troposphere, which is all around us, is home to ground-level ozone — a harmful pollutant created by us. Chemical reactions from substances, such as industrial factory emissions, car exhaust and gas vapors, combined with sunlight, produce ground-level ozone.

Ozone is good up high and bad nearby. Depletion of good ozone and the creation of bad ozone directly correlates to our daily activities. To make a positive impact, you don't have to walk 20 miles to work or ditch the lawn mower and cut your lawn with shears. Instead, try a few simple lifestyle changes, such as fueling up your car and mowing the lawn after 6 p.m., combining errands to eliminate unnecessary travel, and conserving electricity by turning up the thermostat and turning off unused lights and computers.

Being mindful of ozone doesn't have to be painful, but breathing might be if you don't do your share. If you are interested in receiving smog alert notifications, becoming a member of the Regional Ozone Coalition, or have questions, visit www.doyourshare.org or call 1.800.621.SMOG.

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, 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.



"Got News?"

Send an email to sharon.booker@hamilton-co.org.

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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.