



Hello, Hamilton County

E-News for Hamilton County Residents and Staff

June 15, 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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Engineer's CDL Drivers Prepared For Snow and Ice Seasons



Engineer Bill Brayshaw congratulates Jim Hetzel

On May 18, the Ohio Invitational Snowplow/Equipment Rodeo was held in Independence, Ohio.

The commercial licensed drivers showed off their skills and talents with excellent course times and minimal errors on the course. As a part of the competition, the drivers also displayed a keen eye for spotting faulty equipment.

Jim Hetzel placed second in the Local Snow Plow Competition. This event provides the operators a chance to maneuver the snowplow on a course testing their driving capabilities in various maneuvers and tight predicaments that they may encounter while clearing the roadways.

After completing the course, drivers are then

tested on truck maintenance which includes a pre-trip inspection to be sure all parts of the truck and plow are operating properly.

Harry Schmeusser placed second in the Backhoe Competition.

This competition tests the ability and skills of the operator in maneuvering the backhoe in a series of obstacles. A pre-trip inspection on the backhoe is included in this competition, as well.

Competitors for these events came from all over the United States.

Congratulations to our winners, Jim and Harry, and to all the drivers who competed this year.



Harry Schmeusser is congratulated by Engineer Bill Brayshaw.

Annual Planning Session

Elected Officials
 Appointed Authorities
 Department Heads

The June 16, 2003 Annual Planning Session has been postponed.

We anticipate the session will be held mid July.

Tim Ingram Elected Chair of Ohio TUPCF

Hamilton County's Health Commissioner, Tim Ingram, was recently elected chairperson of the Ohio Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Foundation (TUPCF). He will serve a one-year term.

As chairperson, Tim will head the executive committee and appoint committee members. He will also take responsibility for implementing the Ohio TUPCF's strategic plan and mission.

TUPCF was created from the master settlement

agreement between the states and the tobacco companies. The organization funds anti-tobacco community-based programs in the 88 counties in Ohio.

Tim has served as Hamilton County's Health Commissioner since 1993.

Congratulations, Tim.

Hamilton County Selected For Pilot Program

At a press conference held June 7, Senator George Voinovich announced the selection of Cincinnati-Hamilton County as one of four urban areas to participate in the pilot Regional Technology Integration (RTI) initiative. Senator Voinovich was joined by Charles McQueary, of the Department of Homeland Security.

"This initiative will help communities strengthen their security posture by speeding the introduction and implementation of new technologies," said Mr. McQueary. "From detection to prevention, from preparedness to response, we will focus on quickly bringing the best of American innovation to bear on homeland security in a model that can be replicated nationwide."

The goal of Homeland Security's RTI initiative is to speed the successful transfer and integration of existing and advanced homeland security technology systems to local governments in order to improve their preparedness and response. The program focuses on the prompt implementation of technologies for detection and response; the collaboration with end-users and other Homeland Security programs; the integration of new technologies with the existing infrastructure, systems and concepts to reduce costs and assure sustainability; and measurable objectives and continuous evaluation to ease the utilization of lessons learned and best practices by other communities.

Senator Voinovich stated, "We hope and pray that we never have to respond to another terrorist attack, but if we have to, we will be prepared."

Commissioners' Summer Schedule

The Commissioners 2004 summer schedule meetings will be held:

Monday, June 21
 Wednesday, June 23
 Wednesday, July 7
 Monday, July 12
 Wednesday, July 14
 Monday, August 2
 Wednesday, August 4
 Monday, August 16
 Wednesday, August 18
 Monday, August 30
 Wednesday, September 1
 Wednesday, September 8
 regular weekly schedule resumes

The Commissioners meet at 9:30 a.m., in Room 603 County Administration Building.

If you have questions related to the summer schedule, contact Jacqueline Panioto at 946.4414.



Thursday's Child For Information Call 513.632.6366

Patrick

Born: 9/4/96

Sweet and affectionate, Patrick really enjoys school. So it's no surprise that he makes good grades, usually As and Bs.

Like most boys his age, Patrick is very active. He likes playing basketball and baseball. Last year he played outfielder on his community's t-ball team and looks forward to playing again this year.

Cars of any kind are a passion for Patrick. He loves to play, look at, and admire just about any kind of car. This quiet, polite and well-mannered young man needs a family that will help him stay in touch with his older brother and reach his potential.

Give A Life Saving Gift

The county's annual Hoxworth Blood Drive is scheduled for late June through early July.

The following facts may help you as you consider giving blood:

- One in four of us will be the recipient of a blood transfusion in our lifetime.
- The Hoxworth Blood Center serves 1.8 million people, and is the sole supplier of blood to 25 hospitals in 14 counties in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana.
- Locally, we need 350 individuals to step up and donate each day in order to maintain an adequate blood supply.
- Despite the increasing need for donors, Greater Cincinnati and the nation struggle with the reality that only 5% of the population donates blood.
- Donating blood is safe and easy – it is absolutely impossible to contract AIDS or any other infectious disease from donating blood.

- You get *free* juice and snacks afterward!

The need for blood continues to increase as technology and services provided by area hospitals demand it. Unfortunately, blood donations are not keeping pace with blood usage. That is why it is so important that healthy individuals donate blood regularly to insure that there will always be an adequate blood supply for those in need. Take a few minutes to give a gift that could save a life.

In our continuing effort to expand and provide services to remote county sites, we are pleased to announce that the Hoxworth mobile van will visit the following six county sites:

Thursday, June 24, 1 – 3:30 p.m.
Engineer's Office
3504 Roundbottom Road

Monday, June 28, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
County Administration Building
138 E. Court Street

Alms and Doepke Building
222 E. Central Parkway

William Howard Taft Center
230 E. Ninth Street

Thursday, July 1, 1 – 3:30 p.m.
Environmental Services/ Health District
250 William Howard Taft Road

Tuesday, July 6, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Job and Family Services
237 William Howard Taft Road

Employees interested in scheduling an appointment to donate blood should contact:

Kim Pennekamp, 946.4705, to donate at:
County Administration Building
Alms and Doepke Building
William Howard Taft Center
Job and Family Services

Sarah Dowers, 946.7748, to donate at:
250 William Howard Taft Road

Debbie Long, 946.4979, to donate at:
Engineer's Office, Roundbottom Road

Register Now For Computer Recycling Collection

The Solid Waste Management District will hold its final computer recycling event of 2004, on August 26, 27, and 28. The District has partnered with Butler, Clermont, and Northern Kentucky counties again to create a regional event.

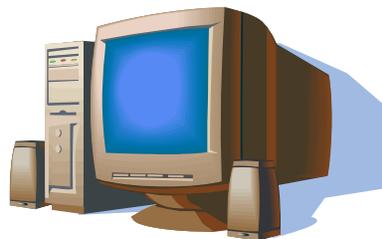
Businesses, non-profit organizations, schools, and residents may bring their computers and computer components to the Hamilton County Fairgrounds for free during the event.

In order to participate, interested parties must register their equipment by **July 30**. Registration forms can be found on the District's website at www.hcdoes.org or you may contact the District at 946.7734.

At the spring recycling event, 17 truckloads of computers were collected, 242 tons of equipment. Approximately 180 businesses and 190 residents participated. In 2003, the District collected 24 truckloads, a final weight of 210 tons.

Items accepted at the collection event include pc workstations, mainframes, scanners, monitors, cables, servers, printers, tape/disk drives, cellular telephones, and other peripherals. The old computers are sent to the Cleveland, Ohio Job Corps for a new lease on life. The hard drives are erased and the computers are either mined for parts or refurbished and sent to non-profit organizations and schools.

If you have computer equipment ready for recycling, register now for the event on August 26, 27, and 28. Remember, you **must** register by the **July 30** deadline.



HCJFS Addresses Adolescents Needs

Job and Family Services has joined six community partners in an effort to address the unmet mental health and substance abuse needs of adolescents in the county juvenile justice system, especially those at the 2020 Auburn Avenue Youth Center.

The partners recently presented a proposal to the Cincinnati Health Foundation. They will follow up with a one year planning process to create business and implementation plans for serving this population. They will seek funding from the foundation.

Other members of the collaborative are, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Division of Psychiatry, the Center for Children and Families, Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board, Mental Health Board, Juvenile Court, and the Cincinnati Public Schools. Lora Jollis and Donna Lang of JFS will serve with the core work group.

Breathe A Little Easier This Summer

Do you know what a smog alert really means to you? Smog alerts are issued when weather conditions are favorable for the formation of smog. Smog can generate harmful health affects, as well as possible negative economic impacts. Smog is formed when sunlight reacts with pollutants in the air, baking those pollutants and turning them into smog. Smog affects everyone who breathes; however children, the elderly, and people with asthma or other respiratory problems are especially at risk.

There are many simple and easy things that you can do to help reduce the level of smog:

- Ride the bus.** A bus with as few as seven passengers is more fuel efficient than the average single occupant auto used for commuting, and a fully occupied bus is six times greater than that of the average single occupant auto.
- Carpool or Vanpool.** If every commuter car in the U.S. carried just one more person, we would save eight billion gallons of gas a year.
- Ride a bike or walk to nearby destinations.** 63% of all car trips in the U.S. are five miles or less, which could be walked, biked, or combined. This not only saves you gas and mileage on your car, but you can burn calories, too!
- Keep your car properly maintained.** A car in tune consumes 20% less fuel and spews less heat-trapping carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Americans waste two million gallons of gas each day because car tires are under-inflated and dirty filters can increase gas use by as much as 10%.
- Combine trips or eliminate unnecessary trips.** By reducing and combining trips, you reduce traffic congestion, which wastes three billion gallons of gas a year in the U.S.
- Refuel your vehicle after 6 p.m. and do not top off.** When gas evaporates from topping off your tank, it creates smog, and you are paying for gas that is not going in your gas tank.
- Be careful when adding fuel to gas powered lawn equipment and use equipment after 6 p.m.** Lawn and garden equipment users inadvertently spill 17 million gallons of fuel each year while refilling their outdoor power equipment. That's more petroleum than spilled by the Exxon Valdez in the Gulf of Alaska.
- Avoid oil-based paints and stains.** Oil based products pollute the environment and are harder to recycle. Keep lids on all solvents and turn off your solvent sink when not in use. Solvent losses due to evaporation, equipment leaks or spills, and inappropriate usage can range from 25 – 40%.
- Save electricity.** Approximately 50% of your energy goes to heating/cooling systems. Try keeping the thermostat at 68 degrees in the winter and 78 degrees in the summer. Remember to change filters often.
- Spread the word.** When one person does their share for cleaner air, it can make a difference. When several people do their share, it can make a huge difference!

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.

On June 9, Commissioner Todd Portune, Rob Fredericks, and Amy Nickerson drew entries on the WXIX Fox 19 Morning Show with Sheila Gray.

If you have questions, call Amy Nickerson, 946.4304.



"Got News?"

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

Deadline for next issue:
June 28.



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.