



Hello, Hamilton County

E-News for Hamilton County Residents and Staff

June 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 Departments Win 9 NACo Achievement Awards

Five county departments recently received notice that their Achievement Award entries were winners. The winners are:

- ◆ Administrative Services, Small Business Development, *Public Entities Small Business Collaborative*
- ◆ Administrative Services, Purchasing, *On-Line Surplus Auction*
- ◆ Job and Family Services, *Children's Services Quality Assurance Audit Project*
- ◆ Regional Planning Commission, *Community Results Accountability Framework*
- ◆ Regional Planning Commission, *Comparative and Competitive Advantages*
- ◆ Regional Planning Commission, *Eastern Corridor Land Use Vision Plan*
- ◆ Regional Planning Commission, *The Planning Partnership*
- ◆ Regional Planning Commission, *The Planning*

Partnership – Certified Planning Commissioners' Program

- ◆ Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, *Leaders In Action* Winner of the “Best of” category

Begun in 1970, the annual Achievement Award Program is a noncompetitive awards program which seeks to recognize innovative county government programs. County governments across the country continue to develop innovative and successful programs in a wide range of service areas. The NACo Achievement Awards Program gives national recognition to county accomplishments.

“Every year, Hamilton County is recognized for the outstanding programs put in place by our department leaders,” stated Commissioner John Dowlin. “We applaud each of our employees, and we share their pride.” Commissioners Phil Heimlich and Todd Portune joined Commissioner Dowlin in saluting our county employees for their NACo Achievement Award-winning programs.

More Awards . . .

Job and Family Services will receive two regional awards at the 2004 Big Ten Food Stamp Improvement Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Big Ten is a joint federal, state and local effort aimed at improving food stamp accuracy and customer service in the Midwest. It includes counties that issue approximately \$10 million per year in food stamp benefits.

Hamilton County will receive awards for:

- Achieving the highest payment accuracy rate. JFS' accuracy rate was 96.92 percent.

- Maintaining a federal quality assurance payment accuracy rate of about 94 percent.

“Every employee involved in processing food stamp applications should be congratulated on this success,” says Amy Story, quality assurance section chief. Kevin Brewer, food stamp quality assurance lead stated, “Internal reviews and resources, such as the Policy Help Desk and Monthly Income Maintenance (IM) Policy Meetings, all contributed to our success. Every clerical person, team leader, quality assurance reviewer and section chief in IM are to be congratulated.”

July 4th

America celebrates July 4 as Independence Day because it was on July 4, 1776, that members of the Second Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, adopted the final draft of the Declaration of Independence.

In 1941, Congress declared July 4 a federal holiday.

30 Years Of Service



Sandy Tiemeyer began her career in the county's building department on June 27, 1974, and spent her entire career there.

Sandy is efficient and empathetic in working with customers to resolve their problems. In her position as administrative assistant, she personally handles referrals and complaints, and is responsible for tracking the referrals. Sandy created a shortcut method for building code sections to be merged into the plans examin-

ers' denial letters to the permit applicant. The system is a great time saver for the department. She also formatted and produced the building code and the fee schedules in electronic form. Sandy prepares the department's newsletter for printing and is responsible for the website.

In 2003, Sandy worked with the purchasing department to successfully bid and buy the department's interactive voice response system which assists contractors and property owners in scheduling inspections and checking the status of their permit applications. She has worked on several special projects, such as collecting data for the A.T. Hudson study and the Management Partners, Inc. study. She participated in the Southwest Ohio Building Officials Association meetings to develop a regional residential code document, and worked with CAGIS to implement the referral/complaint process for the department.

Sandy is always helpful to customers and colleagues. She has dedicated a lifetime of service to Hamilton County and the building department. Sandy will retire on July 9.

Congratulations, Sandy.

Commissioners' Summer Schedule

The Commissioners 2004 summer schedule meetings will be held:

Wednesday, July 7 – 2pm
 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

Meeting are held at 9:30 a.m., in Room 603 County Administration Building.

If you have questions related to the commissioners' summer schedule, contact Jacqueline Panioto, Clerk of the Board, at 946.4414.

Business Center Renovated

The Hamilton County Business Center (HCBC) recently made several renovations.

The project included new carpeting, several new walls with soundproofing, improved HVAC equipment, the addition of a full kitchen, and access to high-speed Internet.

HCBC now has two small conference rooms that seat up to ten people, and a larger lecture-style conference room with a seating capacity of 50.

These improvements and upgrades have allowed HCBC to "remain competitive with other communities throughout the Midwest who

are seeking to grow innovative and scaleable businesses," said HCBC Director Patrick Longo.

HCBC, located at 1776 Mentor Avenue in Norwood, is a private not-for-profit corporation organized to promote economic development. The center assists entrepreneurs by providing flexible space, administrative services and business counseling. In addition, HCDC manages the Economic Development Office.

For more information about HCBC, contact Patrick Longo at 631.8292 or e-mail at longo@hcdc.com.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Opportunity

The Solid Waste Management District is currently offering an opportunity for residents to dispose of their household hazardous waste. In the past, residents were able to bring their unwanted household materials (paint, pesticides, cleaners, batteries, etc.) to various sites throughout the county on specific days of the year. Under a new trial program, residents may bring their waste to a central location which is open throughout the week. This trial program is being conducted to test whether residents find a central facility more convenient, and whether such a facility can be operated more cost effectively than traditional temporary programs.

The only stipulation for this new program is that participants must be Hamilton County residents and must first obtain a *free* voucher. To obtain a voucher, residents may call 946.7734 or visit ww.hcdoes.org.

The voucher will contain directions to the facility and a list of acceptable and unacceptable items. The facility is open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Spread the word to friends and neighbors who may be interested.

As this is a trial program, participation is limited.

Working To Improve Residential Services



Tresa Young, Administration Executive Assistant, Job and Family Services

With a goal of improving services to Children's Services youth in residential facilities, leaders of several public systems kicked off a strategic

planning process on June 15 at the Summit on Residential Services Continuum.

"Participants left the Summit with a positive outlook about what is being done," said Tresa Young, Job and Family Services administration executive assistant. "We received a lot of positive feedback and several e-mail messages afterward."

Job and Family Services, the Mental Health Board, and Hamilton Choices, a private nonprofit under contract with the county, organized the summit. Alice Lin, a Duke University professor, facilitated.

The half-day planning session took place at the Mental Health Board office site. Attendees discussed their shared vision, purpose and expected outcomes. They reviewed data and survey results and left the summit with a series of priorities and action steps.

An emerging goal is for the county's service providers to come together to serve more of the youth within the county. Most residential care now takes place outside the county.

"This is the first step in a long-term process," Young said. "We will include broader representation in future meetings."

The next major planning session takes place July 27.

Addition to HCDC Staff



Drew Barnhorst has joined the Hamilton County Development Company (HCDC) as an Economic Development Tax Incentive

Processor. He will focus on tax incentives through enterprise zones and community reinvestment areas. Drew comes to HCDC from the private sector where he served as an account representative for Fifth Third Processing Solutions.

Drew is a Xavier University MBA graduate and resides in Mt. Lookout with his wife and son. HCDC's staff is pleased to have Drew on board.

Drain, Dunk and Protect

The General Health District is advising homeowners to Drain, Dunk and Protect now and throughout the summer to help reduce the mosquito population and the risk of West Nile Virus. Heed the following three simple steps:

Drain

- * Remove any standing water from your property. Some typical items homeowners should check for standing water include old tires, pet bowls, buckets, flower pots, toys.
- * Clean up litter or other incidental items in your yard. Even something as small as an upturned bottle cap can become a breeding site for thousands of mosquito larvae.

- * Change the water in birdbaths every three to four days.

- * Drain small puddles after heavy rainstorms.



Dunk

- * Apply mosquito larvicide, sometimes called mosquito "dunks," to areas of standing water that cannot be drained. The "dunks" are environmentally safe and will not harm pets.

Protect

- * Keep grass cut short and shrubbery trimmed.
- * Make sure windows have tight-fitting screens — repair tears or holes in screens.
- * Be aware of peak biting periods — night and early morning are peak periods.
- * During peak periods, wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing — long sleeve shirts, pants and jackets.
- * Use appropriate insect repellents on exposed skin. Most effective repellents contain DEET (N-diethyl-metaoluamide). Carefully read all in-

structions on the label before each application.

- * Choose a repellent that offers appropriate protection for the amount of time you will be outdoors. A higher percentage of DEET should be used if you will be outdoors for several hours while a lower percentage of DEET can be used if time outdoors will be limited.
- * Though it is safe to apply separate sunscreen and insect repellent products, DEET should not be used in a product that combines the repellent with a sunscreen.
- * The American Academy of Pediatrics does not recommend using DEET on children under 2 months.

Remember to Drain, Dunk and Protect now throughout the summer.



Sheriff's Academy Graduations

Fifteen recruits graduated from the Sheriff's Basic Corrections Academy. Shown below are: back row, l-r, John Plymesser, Clarence Huckelby, Aaron Payler, Joshua Brians. Middle row, l-r, Chris Cox, Cindy Maxwell, Jeffrey Scott, Randy Koon, Robert White. Front row, l-r, Jason Schmieg, Martin



Lovins, Rebecca Panzeca, Brian Lee, Sara Toennis, Chanelle Matthews.

In a special segment of the ceremony, Sheriff Leis presented the following awards: Randy Koon, *Class Valedictorian and Best Time in the 1-1/2 Mile Run – 9 minutes*. Jeffrey Scott, *Best Overall Male Recruit and Best Time in the Agility Course – 1 minute, 9 seconds*. Sara Toennis, *Best Overall Female Recruit*. Chanelle Matthews, *Most Improved Fitness*.

In a separate graduation ceremony, the Sheriff's Basic Patrol Academy graduation was held. Pictured below are graduates, front row, l-r, Casey Fox, John Enderle, Jamie Bastin, Toby Chenoweth, Andrew Helsinger,

Jeremy Dwyer, Eric Gregory. Middle row, l-r, Davette Burress, Jeff Whitacre, James Whitacre, Brian Hensley, Justin Dishion, Jennifer Lock. Back row, l-r, Michael Worley, Michael Bingle, Brian Kinamore, Pat Fischer, Robert Theetge, Michael Hart-



mann, Stephen Junker. Two special awards were presented at the ceremony to Toby Chenoweth, *Commander's Award, Best Overall Academic Average and Top Gun Award, Best Overall Average in Firearms Training*.

EOYs Attend Reds' Games

Each of our Employees of the Year and one guest will attend an upcoming Reds' game. The employees received tickets to enjoy the game from the county's suite. A buffet-style meal and soft drinks will be served.

In addition to the Employees of the Year, the nominators and supervisors were also offered two tickets to attend a game in the county's suite.

Enjoy the games, and "Go Reds!"



"Got News?"

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

Deadline for next issue: July 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 and click on the green "Newsletter" button.