



Hello, Hamilton County

E-News for Hamilton County Residents and Staff

September 28, 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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County's United Way Campaign Underway

The annual United Way campaign is conducted jointly by the United Way and the American Red Cross. In 2003, individuals and companies in the Greater Cincinnati region pledged \$60.5 million through United Way.

United Way brings our community together to do what matters most — improve people's lives. **Your investment through United Way ensures that more than 325 programs at 159 agencies and about a dozen focused initiatives provide solutions to the most critical issues in eight counties throughout Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.**

Changing a life — isn't that what matters most?

United Way delivers results — measurable improvements in our community and in people's lives. **Funded programs and initiatives must measure and get results, so you can be sure that your contribution is being used wisely and effectively. Community volunteers make all investment decisions based on outcomes evaluation, audit and management practice reviews and alignment with United Way's priority community outcomes.**

United Way is accountable. **About 90 cents of every dollar is going directly to help people. The balance supports United Way's fundraising, fund distribution and year-round operations. Overhead costs are kept low by involving volunteers who donate their time and talents to set priorities, budget funds, evaluate outcomes, and supervise audits. United Way leverages contributions to attract public and foundation dollars, maximizing the impact of your investment.**



The Commissioners thank the employees of Hamilton County for generously supporting the United Way campaign in 2003 by contributing over \$20,000. You are now invited to participate in the 2004 campaign which runs September 27 through October 22.

Join your co-workers as we all contribute to improve lives and communities.

Weight Watchers' Info Meeting
Friday, October 15, noon—12:45pm
Administration Building, Room 710
12 weeks for \$144
Installment plan available week 1

Correction
Please note the following new telephone numbers:

Community Development
946.8230

Section 8
946.8200

Purchasing
946.4350

The telephone numbers were printed incorrectly in the 9/10/04 issue.

Voter Registration Deadline

The upcoming General Election is five weeks or just 36 days away. The deadline to register to vote in this election is October 4. On October 4, the Board of Elections will extend their hours, 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m., to register voters and to update voter registrations.

If you have moved or changed your name since the last election, you should update your voter registration. Updating your registration

will make voting much simpler.



The Ohio Revised Code requires that voters vote in their proper precincts. To find out if you are a registered voter or to confirm your proper voting location, contact the Board of Elections at 632.7000 or visit www.hamilton-co.org/boe.

Sherry Knapp Reappointed By Governor

Governor Bob Taft reappointed Sherry Knapp to the Ohio Council on Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services for the 2004-2006 term. Dr. Knapp, the county's Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services CEO, will also continue serving as chairperson of the council's Medicaid/Finance Committee.



ADAS CEO, Sherry Knapp, Ph.D.

In a letter informing Dr. Knapp of her reappointment, Governor Taft stated, "I have made a commitment to the citizens of Ohio to seek out the brightest and most qualified individuals to serve our state, and am committed to a high standard of professionalism in state government operations. Your experience, leadership skills and your commitment to your community are evidence of your ability to be a conscientious and effective member of our team."

In response to her reappointment, Dr. Knapp commented, "I'm honored to be reappointed to the council. The work my peers and I accomplish on the council plays a vital role in promoting the importance, efficiency and effectiveness of addiction treatment and prevention throughout communities across Ohio."

In addition to Dr. Knapp's reappointment to the council, she was accepted into the 2004-2005 Leadership Cincinnati class, a ten month program designed to stimulate concern for the quality of life in Greater Cincinnati.

Congratulations, Dr. Knapp.

County's Newest Tenant

On October 5, Cincinnati Bell will open its newest retail location in the Alms & Doepke Parkhaus Garage, 1117 Sycamore.

The store will be open Monday through Friday, 8 am - 6 pm. All Cincinnati Bell products and services will be available.

Throughout October, special pricing will be offered to celebrate the opening.

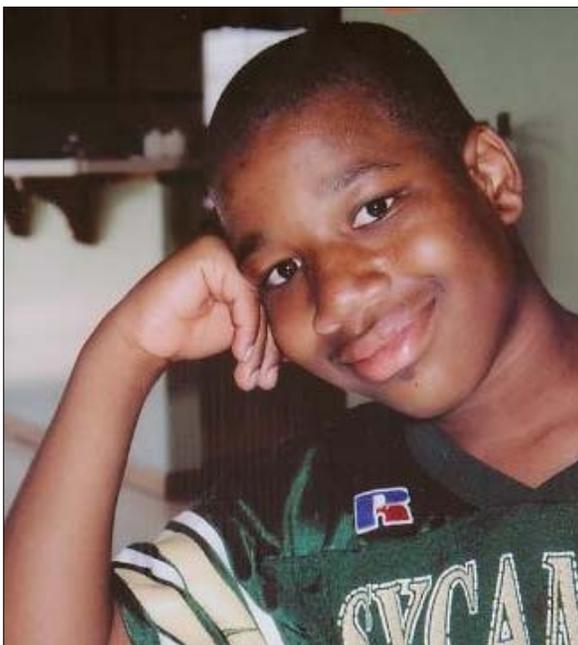
MRDD

The Medicare Replacement Drug Demonstration (MRDD) is a new program that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently launched to provide near-term coverage of certain medications for thousands of Medicare beneficiaries suffering from cancer and other serious illnesses.

The enrollment period for the program ends September 30 and coverage begins this month. You or a loved one may be eligible if:

- ◆ You (they) have Medicare Part A and B; or
- ◆ You (they) have Medicare Part A and B by October 2004;
- ◆ You (they) have Medicare as your "primary payer" (i.e., it pays for health services first, before other insurers);
- ◆ You (they) do not have other comprehensive drug coverage;
- ◆ You (they) live in the 50 states or Washington D.C.

For additional information or to sign up, call 1.866.563.5386, or visit www.cms.hhs.gov.



Thursday's Child For Information Call 513.632.6366

Birth date: 5-30-92

Anthony is a dynamic young man who enjoys watching ESPN, listening to Rap music and playing various sports such as baseball, basketball and hockey.

Anthony has the potential to do well academically, however, his social, emotional and behavioral needs tend to hamper him. Anthony has made tremendous strides over the last year.

Anthony is in need of a permanent home that will assist in the development of his self esteem, as well as encourage contact with his younger brothers.



Homeland Security Grant

The county's Communications Center was awarded \$2.7 million in Homeland Security funding to enhance communications between emergency responders and other local and regional public health and safety agencies throughout our region.

In July 2003, the county's public safety agencies transferred voice communications to a new Motorola Astro 25 trunked 800 MHz radio system. Voice radio interoperability between the various public safety and public service disciplines within the county was one of the center's long-term goals.

Successful implementation of this project will permit the rapid dissemination of sensitive intelligence information to area fire, emergency management services, agencies in 45 municipalities, Emergency Management Agency, HazMat, emergency rooms in 25 regional hospitals, and other health and safety agencies over a secure data network.

The Mobile Data Computer (MDC) network will also help to facilitate coordination between various response and support agencies in support of disaster planner, response, and mitigation. The MDC network

will support some of these examples:

- ◆ Early warning intelligence information
- ◆ Medical Health Care Alerts
- ◆ HazMat information
- ◆ National Disaster Medical System bed count information
- ◆ Logistical and resource coordination
- ◆ Link regional public safety communication centers

This innovative partnership will receive national attention in September 2004, when the U.S. Department of Transportation and ITS America hosts a series of national focus groups in Washington, D.C. to encourage the rapid development and implementation of real-time interoperable information and communications systems.

William Hinkle, Director of the Communications Center commented, "We are very excited about this project and what it will do for our public safety services throughout Hamilton County. Our forward thinking and innovation will help put Hamilton County out in front of tomorrow's emerging technologies."

Lending Changes

The Hamilton County Development Company (HCDC) lending program will soon operate under a new name, Horizon Certified Development Company.

The change impacts the name only. The people behind the loan program are the same, located in the same place (Norwood), working with the same principles.

For over 20 years HCDC has provided many successful businesses, inside and outside the county, with essential long-term, fixed asset financing. The impact of the program has been phenomenal, and now it's time for HCDC to take the program to new heights, into new counties and even new states.

HCDC will have more news about Horizon Certified Development Company in the coming weeks. For updates, visit www.hcdc.com, and click on "news."

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. As a catalyst for change, ProKids has spearheaded an innovative initiative to address the exceptional needs of children who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence in their homes — the Steps TO Peace program.

According to the National Coalition against Domestic Violence, children are abused at a rate of 1500 times higher than the national average in homes where spousal abuse occurs. "We realized there was a great need to determine whether children had been exposed to violence and then ensuring that they received the proper treatment which addressed the trauma resulting from the violence," said Steps TO Peace Manager, B. Kathryn King.

Training will also be made available to service providers and others involved in the child protection system, to raise awareness and promote development of effective domestic violence prevention and treatment services for children and their families.

ProKids

Parks Celebrate 75 Years



Autumn Bike Tour

On October 1, the county's Park District will begin celebrating 75 years of great parks. The celebration will begin with

the sale of the 2005 Motor Vehicle Permits (MVP). The permits will cost \$5 and include three \$1 coupons for park facilities and programs.

In addition to the \$1 coupons, county residents will receive a reward form to be completed and mailed or dropped off at any of the park's visitor centers and golf courses. The Park District will



Trails

then mail the resident a \$5 reward gift certificate to be used at the golf courses, visitor centers, snack bars, boathouses, gift shops, Highfield Discovery Garden and Parky's Farm.

MVPs can be purchased at any of the 19 parks or online. Visit GreatParks.org. A valid permit gains entrance to all county parks from date of purchase through December 31, 2005.

The Park District offers its visitors a variety of events throughout the year, such as golf, campgrounds, fishing, boating, paved and nature trails, playgrounds and picnic areas. Visit one of our 19 parks and celebrate!



Golf Courses

Flu Season

Each winter, millions of people suffer from the flu, a highly contagious infection caused by a variety of viruses that infect the nose, throat and lungs. It spreads easily from person to person mainly when an infected person coughs or sneezes. If the flu virus infects you, you will usually feel symptoms very quickly, including headache, chills, dry cough, body aches, fever, stuffy nose, and sore throat. The most familiar aspect of the flu is the way it can knock you off your feet as it sweeps through entire communities.

The county and Humana ChoiceCare have teamed up again to help employees and their families remain flu-free during the upcoming season. Following are important reminders for the flu shot program:

- ◆ Employees with Humana ChoiceCare can receive their vaccine free of charge by presenting their NewHealth, Primary Access or CoChoice card at any scheduled flu shot site.
- ◆ Employees who have declined medical insurance may receive the vaccination for a \$16 copay, payable at each location.
- ◆ Spouses and insurance eligible dependents 18 years and older may also receive a flu shot. Dependents 17 and younger must go to their primary care physician to receive the shot.

See your payroll officer for the time, date, and location flu shots will be given in your office location.



For more information on influenza and the flu shot vaccine, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/nip> or consult your physician. If you have questions about the county's flu shot program, contact Kim Pennekamp at 946.4705.

National 9-1-1 Day

People in all facets of the 9-1-1 industry and beyond have observed September 11 as National 9-1-1 Day, since President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation in 1987 making



September 11 "9-1-1 Emergency Number Day."

This year the five Public Safety Answering Points in the county enjoyed a picnic at Winton Woods with hamburgers donated by JTM. The Cincinnati Reds, again, donated game tickets for the evening and LaRosa's continued their tradition of donating pizzas. Mobilcomm and Motorola gave cash donations for cakes, drinks, etc. Other vendors contributing to the event were Gold Star Chili, Cincinnati Bell, Klosterman's Bakery, the Park District, Sam's Club and Home City Ice. Many dispatchers and their families came out and enjoyed perfect weather and a great time.

Thanks to these local businesses who realize the vital role these exceptional people have in our community. Thanks for assisting us in thanking these workers as we celebrate the contribution all 9-1-1 operators make serving our communities.

To each of the 9-1-1 operators, we appreciate what you do for our county.

Horse and Manure Management Seminar

Hamilton, Butler and Clermont Soil & Water Districts, along with Farm Bureau will sponsor an equine seminar on October 16, 8:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., at the Diamond Oaks Career Center, 6375 Harrison Avenue.

Topics will include, horse health updates, manure management, pasture management, cost share opportunities, and a question and answer session on legal and liability issues.

The cost is \$7 and includes continental breakfast, snacks and an information folder.

For registration and information, call Holly Utrata-Halcomb at 772.7645. Deadline for registration is October 8.



"Got News?"

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

Deadline for next issue: October 11.



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.