



Hello, Hamilton County

E-News for Hamilton County Residents and Staff

October 13, 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 Receives GFOA Award

Lois Reynolds, Deputy Director of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), and several members of the DAS team received the county's 12th straight Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Award. Presenting the award is John Wahle, President of the Ohio GFOA.



GFOA is a professional association of state and local finance officers in the United States and Canada, and has served the public finance profession since 1906. Approximately 16,000 GFOA members are dedicated to the sound management and government financial resources.

The county is one of 22 jurisdictions in Ohio to receive the award. Only 900 of the 4,800 GFOA member jurisdictions receive this award. Over 80,000 jurisdictions are eligible.

To receive the GFOA award, the county's budget was reviewed by a panel of three budget professionals using 26 criteria in the area of policy, financial information, operations, and the budget as a communication device.

Congratulations to Eric Stuckey, Assistant County Administrator for Administrative Services,

Our condolences

We extend condolences to the family of Joan Cornelius.

Joan was a retired county employee, formerly Secretary to County Engineer William Brayshaw.

Weight Watchers Meeting

The Weight Watchers Information Meeting will be held on Friday, October 15, 12:45 p.m., in Room 710, Administration Building.

The regular price of the series is \$144. Weight Watchers is offering customers \$10 off on the upcoming series.

Sign up on October 15, at a cost of \$134 for the 12-week series.

For more information, contact Kim Pennekamp, 946.4705.



You still have time to support the county's United Way (UW) campaign.

UW partners with agencies, and with other community organizations to increase their impact.

And, UW partners with you! They make sure that your donation is making the biggest difference in the community.

The county's campaign runs through October 22.

Master Composting Series

The Solid Waste District, in conjunction with the Civic Garden Center of Greater

Cincinnati is offering its annual Master Composting Series.

Compost, sometimes referred to as hummus, is an ideal mulch, potting soil, or top dressing for a flower bed or vegetable garden.

Using natural, organic materials found in your household waste is effective in the breaking down process to help create compost. Items such as fruit and vegetable scraps, green leaves, coffee grounds, egg shells and corn stalks provide carbon and nitrogen which are major elements of a compost pile. By incorporating compost into your mulching and soil process, you can reduce moisture from soil surface, control weeds, loosen heavy clay soils and aerate the rooting area.

The free Master Composting Series offers three weeks of intensive compost training. Participants will learn about a wide array of topics, including where to locate



a compost pile, which type of compost bin is best and how to build it, how and when to turn the compost, and how to incorporate compost into an existing garden. Participants will also learn about the fascinating biology of a compost pile and the cycle of life that occurs in decomposing organic matter. Each attendee will build and take home a wire compost bin.

The course is absolutely free! All that is asked of participants is that they take what they learn and pass it on. Fifteen hours of volunteer service is required to complete the course. There are a number of volunteer options, i.e., start a school composting project, to suit all needs and aspirations.

Information about the Master Composting Series, is available at www.hcdoes.org or e-mail amramor@CivicGardenCenter.org. You can reach Ali Mramor, Youth Education Coordinator for the Civic Garden Center, by telephone at 221.0981, extension 11.

If you want more information about composting, call the composting hotline at 946.7755.

Leaders Make a Difference

Human Resources Development is offering an advanced refresher training of Situational Leadership using the Hollywood classic film, *12 O'clock High*.

The action packed case study provides an opportunity to learn more about situational leadership, improving group performance, and the process of change.



The concepts presented in the film are common to small and large organizations. Participants in the training will make decisions on leadership styles, team and individual development levels, and evaluate organizational and individual effectiveness.

Then compare their assessment with the view of the experts.

12 O'clock High: A Situational Leadership Refresher is scheduled for December 10, 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. (This is a date change.) The class is open to all who have completed Situational Leadership training.

Space is available, so ask your training coordinator to sign you up today!



The majority of children available for adoption through Job and Family Services (JFS) are African American, over the age of five or part of a sibling group.

JFS rarely has infants or toddlers available for adoption. All of the children have been abused or neglected. However, despite their troubled lives, most of the children laugh and play. They have favorite toys, games and friends. Each child has hopes and dreams.

Perhaps you and your family can be a dream come true for one of the children. To meet the children, visit the JFS website and click on "adoption."

If you need information on how to adopt from a public agency please read the adoption information on the website.

Thursday's Child
For Information Call 513.632.6366

Employee Donates Hair To Locks of Love



A selfless act of kindness has come to the Department of Environmental Services (DOES) with the help of Chad Powell.

Each year, DOES holds an event to raise money for the Fine Arts Fund

(FAF). For the last couple of years, an auction was held as the fundraising event. Employees donate items in order to make this event a success.

For over ten years, Powell let his hair grow and on March 10, he put himself (specifically his hair) on the auction block. For the highest bid, he agreed to cut his hair and donate it to Locks of Love (LOL). On July 22, Powell kept his word and cut 22 inches of his hair for the LOL donation.

LOL, established in 1997, is a nonprofit



organization that provides hair pieces to children under 18 who suffer from long term medical hair loss and are financially disadvantaged. The donated hair is used to create hair prosthetics of high quality to assist in rebuilding self-esteem and confidence to interact with peers. LOL receives over 2,000 donations a week with 80 percent of them being from children. In its first year, LOL grew from helping only 21 hair loss recipients to helping over 1,000.

Chad Powell not only honored his commitment to FAF, he also donated a piece of himself for the happiness of a child. It doesn't get anymore selfless than that. We're proud of you, Chad.

For more information about Locks of Love, visit www.locksoflove.org.



There is still time to volunteer to distribute Citizen Corps information at the polls on November 2.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Mary Spatt, 851.7080.



A More Unified Voice

For the first time in the 40 year history of the Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI), Hamilton County's regional representatives are aligning their interests through a formal caucus. The *Hamilton County Caucus of OKI Representatives* was convened in January 2004, by the Planning Partnership. The purpose is to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the county's communities in identifying and communicating our collective interests to state and federal decision-makers.

This important initiative is one of the first strategic actions aimed at implementing recommendations adopted in Community COMPASS, the vision for the county's future. The initial concept evolved from Community COMPASS discussions on governance facilitated by Peter Block and co-sponsored by two of our affiliate partners — the Grass Roots Leadership Academy and the Leadership Cincinnati Alumni Association Civic Engagement and Govern-

ment Committee.

Among the many issues and opportunities identified in the first meetings were concerns of balanced representation and equitable distribution of funding. The county's population is 43 percent of the eight-county OKI region, while our share of representatives on the OKI Board of Trustees is 27 percent (32 of 102); on the OKI Executive Committee 18 percent (5 of 27); on the OKI Intermodal Coordinating Committee, a technical advisory group, 27 percent (16 of 59). The Caucus is also reviewing the county's share of regional transportation funds relative to its existing road miles and increasing need of repair or upgrade in aging communities.

The Caucus is focused on the following desired results:

- ◆ Improved communication and public awareness within the county on regional issues impacting local governments.

- ◆ Improved understanding, among the county's OKI representatives, of issues under consideration at OKI and their impacts on local jurisdictions.
- ◆ Greater attendance of representatives and increased capacity of county local governments to influence regional policies and actions.
- ◆ Greater potential for implementation of "The Vision for Hamilton County's Future," as adopted by Planning Partnership, the Regional Planning Commission, and the County Commissioners.
- ◆ Increased capacity of county local governments to influence state and federal decision-making on issues or opportunities affecting the county.

Caucus members have agreed that votes on regional issues will not take place at Caucus meetings. Instead, county representatives will vote on issues individually at OKI meetings, with more informed votes and a more unified voice.

Outstanding Conservation Partners Awards

The county's 2004 *Outstanding Conservation Partners Awards* were announced at the Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) annual meeting and banquet. "Partnership with the communities, industry and government entities is the only way true conservation can exist," said SWCD Chairman, Thomas Reininger.

The 2004 winners are:

- * Ohio Representative Bill Seitz, District 30, for his continued support on legislation promoting the conservation of natural resources.
- * Commissioner John Dowlin, recognized for his 13 years of service to the county, and his fair and balanced approach to the many conservation issues our county faced.
- * Lucille Diebel, for her continued support of the Odegard/Diebel Teaching Scholarship. This scholarship has enabled many teachers to expand their ability to teach conservation issues.
- * David Drury, Senior Engineer with Messer Construction for his efforts in controlling erosion and sediment on their sites in the county. Messer has been proactive in addressing the requirements under Phase II of the Clean Water Act.
- * Tim Turton, Vice President, C.O.O., Coppage Construction Inc. for Coppage's efforts in making erosion and sediment control a high priority. They work closely with SWCD representatives and have significantly reduced the amount of sediment leaving their sites.
- * David Hildebrand, Freshman, Turpin High School, recipient of the 2004 Forestry Camp Scholarship.

Snow Roadeo



From August 30 through September 1, County Engineer William Brayshaw officiated over the annual "Snow Roadeo," held outdoors near the Communications Center on Hamilton Avenue.

The event included a timed obstacle course and a vehicle maintenance inspection. While the weather could not provide the drivers with conditions that reflected snow and ice on the roads, situations could be duplicated that provided the drivers with an opportunity to hone their driving skills.

Approximately 261 drivers from the Engineer's Office and townships and municipalities in the county participated in the roadeo.

Winners from the Engineer's Office, pictured left to right with Mr. Brayshaw (2nd from left) were:

- 1st — Ron Ripperger
- 2nd — Jim Hetzel
- 3rd — Kirk Grimes (not pictured)
- 4th — Tom Gessendorf

Ron and Jim will go on to compete in the American Public Works Association of Southwest Ohio Sanitation Maintenance Safety Organization's Snow Roadeo in Dayton, Ohio.

Congratulations to the drivers and thanks to all who helped with the event.

August Web Page Statistics

August 2004 was the second highest "hits" month recorded with almost 6.9 million "hits" on the county's newly designed web page. That is only behind March 2004's 7.2 million "hits."

The top ten sites after the home page included:

- * Search
- * Job Postings
- * Board of Elections
- * Municipal Court
- * Auditor
- * Court of Appeals
- * Board of Health
- * Treasurer
- * Links
- * Board of Elections "Are You Registered To Vote"

"Got News?"

Send an email to sharon.booker@hamilton-co.org.
Deadline for next issue:
October 25.



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.