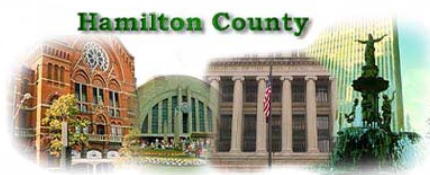


Hello, Hamilton County



November 24, 2004



E-News for Hamilton County Residents and Staff

www.hamilton-co.org

Gift ideas for Job and Family Services holiday gift drive

- Art/Craft supplies
- Books
- Backpacks with supplies
- Gift certificates for restaurants, music stores, discount stores, entertainment, and the like)
- Hair ornaments
- Boom box
- Clock radio
- Twin-size quilts or fleece throws
- Dolls (culturally diverse)
- Soccer balls, kick balls
- Cars and trucks
- Wooden puzzles
- Balls
- Board games
- Stuffed animals
- Sweatshirts and fleece jackets (large and extra-large sizes)

For more information, call Judy Stadler, 946.1884 or Mark Eling, 946.1303.

JFS holiday gift drive

The Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) has begun its annual holiday gift collection for abused and neglected children. About 7,000 children are involved with JFS. The agency works with local businesses, churches, schools and individuals who want to donate toys and other gifts to children who may otherwise go without.

JFS works to keep families intact, and most of the children remain in the care of their parents. Caseworkers help the families cope with difficulties and crises. Other children are in the care of relatives, in foster homes or group care.

Your gifts can bring a smile to the faces of these children.

Gift Guidelines

- All gifts must be in the hands of JFS staff no later than December 15
- Gift delivery is preferred, but pick-up can be arranged. Deliver gifts to 222 E. Central Parkway or 237 William Howard Taft Road. For pick-up, call Dave Eversmann, 946.2148
- Children's names and specific gift wishes are not released. Arrangements can be made, however, to "adopt" one or more families for the holidays. Call Sheila Hayes, 946.1908
- Unwrapped gifts are preferred. If you wrap gifts, please attach a label identifying the gift, i.e., African-American doll, Caucasian doll
- Financial donations are appreciated. Make checks payable to Foster Child Enrichment Council, P.O. Box 18283, Cincinnati, Ohio 45218. On the memo line, write "Holiday Gifts." Your gift is tax deductible. Checks must be received no later than December 10
- New gifts only
- Gifts are needed for boys and girls, ages birth to 19. Gifts are especially needed for older children and teens.
- No violence-oriented toys
- Gifts should be culturally diverse

Quote of the Issue

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

~ John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Yardwaste recycling drop-off sites closing for the season

The Solid Waste Management District's Yardwaste Recycling Drop-off sites will close November 14. These sites, provided free to county residents, will re-open from January 8, 2005 through January 15, 2005. During these dates, the sites will be open on Saturdays only from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

If your community does not have a Christmas tree recycling program, bring your tree to one of the free yardwaste sites between January 8 and 15. These sites will accept yardwaste and Christmas trees, free of charge, on Saturdays, only. The sites are located at Evans Landscaping, 3700 Roundbottom Road in Newtown; Kluge Park, 6717 Bridgetown Road in Green Township, and Rumpke Sanitary Landfill, Strubble Road and Colerain Avenue in Colerain Township. Drop-off sites accept items such as leaves, grass clippings, brush, garden waste, tree trunks, Christmas trees, and prunings from trees and shrubs. To learn more call 946.7755 or visit www.hcdoes.org.

We will serve the residents of Hamilton County by providing the best and most responsive county government in America."
— Hamilton County Vision

HCBC business incubator Helping entrepreneurs succeed

When the phone rings at the business incubator on Mentor Avenue in Norwood, any one of 46 innovative and growing start-up companies could pick up the phone. Those 46 companies join a list of nearly 200 early stage ventures that have gotten their start at the county's Business Center (HCBC).

During its 15 year existence, HCBC has successfully launched nearly 70 percent of its participants, with nearly 95 percent of those successful graduates setting up business in the county. To be deemed successful, a company must survive to its fifth anniversary while creating jobs and operating profitably. In the past 12 months, HCBC tenants generated, on an aggregate basis, over \$26 million in revenues, employed over 280 people and received over \$5.5 million in capital funding. HCBC companies sell products and services that are utilized on six continents, and one company has had an experiment on the International Space Station.

"Entrepreneurial drive, talent, capital and business assistance are all available in abundant supply in the county," remarked Patrick Longo, Director of HCBC.

Entrepreneurs nurturing entrepreneurial environment should contact HCBC at 631.8292. Learn more about HCBC and its parent company, the county's Development Company, at www.hcdc.com.

Wish you could quit smoking? Start SMART

If you smoke and wish you could quit, take advantage of one of the county's newest Brown Bag Lunch series, "Start SMART," a structured medical approach, research-based treatment program for nicotine dependence. There is no charge for the program.

The program includes a 20-minute individual session, six one-hour group sessions, and 30 and 60 day follow-ups. Group topics include nicotine replacement therapies and medications available to help you quit, dealing with urges, cravings, slips, stress management, weight management, and relapse prevention.

Individual screenings will be held January 10, by appointment. Group sessions will be held Mondays, 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m., beginning January 24, in Room 710, County Administration Building.



Residential Summit A major collaborative effort



Pictured: Lisa Morgan of Pressley Ridge (left) and Ayanna Moore, former foster child, now college student and speaker at a recent Summit meeting.

A major collaborative effort is underway to improve services to abused and neglected children who need intensive treatment in residential facilities. Job and Family Services (JFS) and the Community Mental Health Board are leading the project called the Residential Summit.

"Public agencies, providers, consumer advocates, families and youth are all a part of this effort," said JFS Director, Suzanne Burke. "To move ahead, we have to work from common ground. Ultimately, this collaborative effort will yield better outcomes for the children in our community."

The challenges are great. The children involved have serious mental health and behavioral problems, and their care can be very complex and costly. Summit participants want to develop a system of care that keeps children close to home, delivers the right services in the right amounts at the right times, involves families, uses local resources, and is cost effective.

The goals of the Summit are to improve children's outcomes, control costs, and build on existing partnership between public funders and providers. Strategies include:

- Reduce the number of children who must be placed in facilities outside the county
- Survey local strengths and gaps
- Identify financial resources for underserved populations
- Address the needs of violent youth

A Youth Summit was held recently to hear from young men and women who had been in county custody as foster children and had spent time in residential treatment. The young people shared their experiences and made suggestions for change.

Besides Job and Family Services and the Mental Health Board, Summit participants include: Juvenile Court, Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Children's Hospital, Family and Children First Council, Hamilton Choices, Clermont County JFS, Lighthouse Youth Services, Talbert House, Pressley Ridge, St. Aloysius, St. Joseph's, Family Advocates, and the MindPeace project of the Junior League.

November 10 issue correction

The Sharonville paper recycling location is the Princeton High School student parking lot, 11080 Chester Road.

**Adoption
For Information Call
513.632.6366**

Pricilla
birthdate: December 24, 1991



Pricilla adores video games, movies and weekly trips to the roller skating rink.

She spends a lot of time playing with her Barbie dolls, coloring and listening to music.

Outdoors, Pricilla loves skating, jumping rope or playing four square.

Respectful and sweet, Pricilla pays close attention in school so she can be an exceptional teacher after college.

Help enrich the life of a child in need.

Print and post
Hello, Hamilton County
in your area!

**ProKids 12th annual auction gala
draws 500 supporters**

ProKids hosted its 12th annual auction gala on November 20, at the downtown Hyatt Regency. More than 500 guests turned out to enjoy the live and silent auction event which raised over \$120,000.



Auction items included trips to Costa Rica and Keystone, Colorado, as well as original artwork from local artists Barbara Heimann, Kevin Kelly and Michael Manning.

Guests also bid on a private 30-person cruise, six bottles of Chateau Margaux, and a Hilton Head Villa vacation, among many other selections. Entertainment was provided by the Cincinnati Rhythm Band. The evening began with a special Friends of Children reception hosted by Charter Sponsors Jeb and Nirvani Head.

Pictured left to right are Evelyn White, Court Appointed Special Advocate, Tracy Cook, Executive Director of ProKids, and Sheree Paoello, anchor/reporter, Channel 5 News.

Governor's Award for Excellence
County among twelve honorees

Governor Taft recognized recipients of the 2004 Governor's Award for Excellence in Energy Efficiencies for their efforts to improve energy efficiency, the environment, and Ohio's economic competitiveness. The county's program was recognized at the 11th annual awards ceremony.



Pictured l-r: Terry Cannon, Project Engineer, ThermalTech; Ralph Linne, County Facilities Director ; and Anthony Matre, County Building Operations Senior Manager

The winning program was the county's contract with Thermal-Tech Engineering. The program identified large energy savings opportunities within six of the county's downtown buildings. Savings from the projects implemented were then funneled back into the program to improve energy usage.

Visit www.odod.state.oh.us/oeef.htm for energy efficiency information.

2005 Mobile Mammography Schedule

January 6, 8:00 am—4:00 pm
County Administration Building
138 E. Court Street

January 21, 8:00 am—4:00 pm
Job & Family Services
222 E. Central Parkway

January 25, 1:00 pm—3:30 pm
River City Correctional Center
3220 Colerain Avenue

January 27, 8:00 am—4:00 pm
William Howard Taft Building
230 E. Ninth Street

January 28, 8:00 am—4:00 pm
County Administration Building
138 E. Court Street

February 4, 8:00 am—4:00 pm
Job and Family Services
222 E. Central Parkway

February 10, 8:00 am—4:00 pm
Job and Family Services
237 William Howard Taft Road

February 17, 8:00 am—4:00 pm
Job and Family Services
222 E. Central Parkway

Women, 35 years and older may contact the Health Alliance Call Center, 686.3300 to schedule an appointment.

Biodiesel at six Greater Cincinnati stations

The Lykins Oil Company introduced biodiesel at six retail stores in the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area. The premium-quality diesel blend, containing two percent biodiesel, was introduced at prices competitive with petroleum diesel. The six stations are the first retail stations in the Cincinnati/Dayton area to offer biodiesel, and the first in the entire state of Kentucky.

The six stations offering biodiesel are:

- Marathon, 6391 Reading Road, Mason, Ohio
- Exxon, 1144 State Route 131, Milford, Ohio
- Shell, 111 William C. Good Boulevard, Franklin, Ohio
- BP, 2144 Kilgore Place, Hebron, Kentucky
- BP, 2005 Patriot Way, Independence, Kentucky
- BP, 4618 Route 8, Cold Spring, Kentucky

Biodiesel is a locally produced fuel that can help relieve dependence on foreign oil. It is a cleaner-burning fuel that can be made from any fat or vegetable oil, such as recycled cooking oils or soybean oil. Horsepower, fuel economy and performance are the same as conventional diesel. Diesel engines require no modifications to use biodiesel, and no special equipment or training is required to handle it.

On October 22, President George W. Bush signed into law a bill containing the first biodiesel tax incentive, a provision that is expected to increase domestic energy security, reduce pollution and stimulate the economy.

The biodiesel tax incentive, structured as a federal excise tax credit, will lower the cost of biodiesel to consumers in taxable and tax exempt markets.

The incentive is expected to increase biodiesel demand from an estimated 30 million gallons in fiscal year 2004 to at least 124 million gallons per year, based on a United States Department of Agricultural study. However, depending on a number of other factors, including crude oil prices, the industry projects that demand could grow much higher than that in the next decade.

Word for this Issue

Syzygy

`si - zə - jē

The configuration of the sun, moon and earth in a straight line.

Noun from Greek word syzygos meaning yoked together.

Can't attend the Wednesday public meeting? We would still like to hear from you.



Commissioner John Dowlin
john.dowlin@hamilton-co.org



Commissioner Phil Heimlich
phil.heimlich@hamilton-co.org



Commissioner Todd Portune
todd.portune@hamilton-co.org

"Got News?" Email sharon.booker@hamilton-co.org. Deadline for next issue: December 6.

If you have questions or suggestions for future editions, please contact Sharon Booker, 946.4428. To subscribe or unsubscribe visit <http://www.hamilton-co.org/newsletter/>. *Thanks to those who contributed to this issue.*