

Hello, Hamilton County



December 15, 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.

Quote of the Issue

"If you want to be a better person tomorrow than you were today, do something for someone without expecting anything in return."

~Carl Mays

Solid Waste District awarded over \$200,000 in grants

The Solid Waste District has been awarded over \$200,000 in grant funding from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). The District was awarded \$126,823 to develop and strengthen recycling and litter prevention programs, and \$77,000 for the Technology Recycling Group (TRG) to be used to purchase equipment to expand capacity and services.

"This grant allows communities to effectively target their solid waste reduction, recycling, and litter prevention programming needs," said

Jeffrey Aluotto, the District's Program Manager.

Currently, TRG is the only total electronic demanufacturer in the county. TRG accepts computers and computer related equipment, televisions and other household electronics. With the grant, TRG will be able to provide onsite secure shredding of all hard drives, and also be able to bale materials for more efficient shipping. The grant will help to improve the necessary recycling infrastructure needed for obsolete computers.

Recently, TRG partnered with a local nonprofit agency to provide schools and the underprivileged with working computers. Together, the two agencies conducted a computer collection event at which 25 tons of old computer equipment was collected.

For more information about the District and the free programs and services they provide, visit www.hcdoes.org.

For information about TRG, visit www.recyclegroup.net or call 761.5333.

Health District to conduct community health assessment

Residents can voice health and safety concerns

The Health District is conducting a community health assessment to help identify health problems and issues from the perspective of the county's communities. The findings will be reported to the communities and the information used to help identify ways to make improvements.

The assessment process is underway now and will continue through April 2005. County residents 18 years and older can be a part of the process by participating in a community focus group or by completing the community health assessment survey.

Your participation in the assessment process is an important step in improving the health of your community. The Health District wants to hear from you. Call 946.7808 to sign up or to get more information.

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

Sanitarian Official of the Year Health District employee honored



Pictured l-r: PACE President Richard Osgood, Alan Hamilton, Health Commissioner Tim Ingram.

Alan Hamilton, a 23-year employee of the General Health District, was recently named Sanitarian Official of the Year by the Professional Association of Code Enforcement (PACE).

Hamilton was nominated by Chris Eddy, Health Division Director and Tim Ingram, Health Commissioner.

Hamilton is respected by his coworkers and the residents of the communities he serves. Among other achievements in 2004, Hamilton was recognized by PACE for,

- Removing children from an abusive home and bringing the parent to prosecution.
- Convincing an elderly veteran with mental illness to move himself into an assisted living facility.
- Helping to educate and build relationships in a community dealing with rodent problems.

Congratulations Alan. We are proud of you.

Home Improvement Program

The county's Home Improvement Program (HIP) allows homeowners in participating communities to borrow money to repair or remodel their homes or rental property at interest rates 3 percent below the lowest rate a bank would normally offer.

Five banks in the county participate in the HIP program:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Fifth Third | Key |
| North Side | Provident |
| US Bank | |

To find out if your community participates in the program, and to learn how to apply, visit www.hamilton-co.org/commissioners/doc/HIP.htm.



A busy day at Board of Elections

"The November 2004 Presidential Election brought out huge numbers of voters that resulted in an extremely busy day for Board of Elections' staff," said Pamela Swafford, Deputy Director.

Approximately 75.5 percent of 573,612 eligible voters cast their vote on races and issues, including who will serve as president for the next four years and which local levies will pass.

While Board of Elections' (BOE) staff was inundated with telephone calls, poll workers — who are the heart of elections — were undoubtedly just as busy. From 6:00 a.m. when the polls opened until 7:30 p.m. when the polls closed, they answered questions from long lines of voters in an effort to make sure that each vote cast counted.

Poll workers provided voting demonstrations for voters not sure of how to use the voting equipment, explained provisional voting procedures to voters who moved to the county after their cutoff date for voter registration, advised voters what to do if they made a mistake on their ballot, and instructed voters on how to check for loose chads.

If you know any of our poll workers, please thank them for the tireless work they performed for the public on Election Day. Many of the poll workers are retired seniors, and others take a vacation day from work to help with one of the biggest and more important jobs that helps to guarantee us all our most fundamental and precious right — voting.

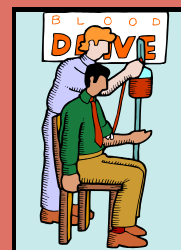
The official results of the election are available on the BOE website at www.hamilton-co.org/boe.



Pamela Swafford, Deputy Director, Board of Elections,

A Reminder

The county is sponsoring a one-day blood drive to help Hoxworth Blood Center with shortages that occur during this time of the year.



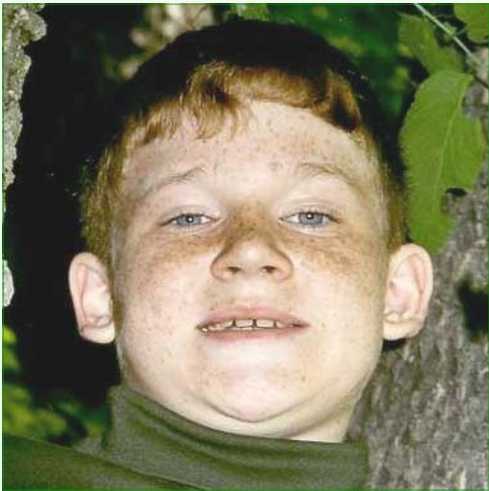
On Friday, December 17, the Hoxworth Mobile Unit will be parked at two county sites:

County Administration Building, 138 E. Court Street
9:00–11:00 a.m.

Job and Family Services, 222 E. Central Parkway
1:00–3:00 p.m.

**Adoption
For Information Call
513.632.6366**

Steven
birthdate: January 24, 1989



Steven's heart-warming smile is the first thing you notice. This energetic, curious young man cooperates at home and at school. Steven likes school and makes above average grades.

Healthy and active, Steven likes to play football and baseball. He likes to swim in the summer and likes playing with his friends after school. Indoors, he's a typical teenager. He loves to play video games.

Steven's first love is animals. Any kind of animal intrigues him. He hopes to become a veterinarian when he grows up.

Steven needs a family that can nurture his ambitions and help him maintain contact with his siblings.

**Help enrich the life of
a child in need.**

Hotline will celebrate 15 years of service

The county's 24-hour elder abuse and neglect reporting line, 421-LIFE, celebrates 15 years of service in January. Adult Protective Services, a unit of the Department of Job and Family Services (JFS), operates the hotline.

Since 1990, 421-LIFE has received more than 50,000 calls and fielded about 12,000 allegations of abuse, neglect or exploitation. Those calls have allowed Adult Protective social workers to assist everyone from a 75-year-old retired teacher who had forgotten boiling soup and caught a kitchen on fire, to an 80-year-old who had been slapped by her son for urinating on the carpet.

Adult Protective Services urges you to become familiar with the warning signs of elder abuse and neglect, and to call 421-LIFE if you have concerns. The warning signs are detailed in a new brochure available by calling 946.2189. Beginning in January, the warning signs will be posted at www.hcjfs.org.

Mindfulness Meditation classes

Lunch time stress management

Jay Busemeyer, certified OCWTP stress management trainer, is offering county employees a free lunch time stress management class, Mindfulness Meditation.

Each class will include the use of relaxation music, gentle guided imagery, and mindfulness of breathing to help calm the mind and relax the body and emotions.

Classes will be held each Tuesday, 12:30 — 1:00 p.m., in the Alms & Doepke Building, 222 E. Central Parkway, Room 6SE701.

To register, send an email to Jay Busemeyer at busemj@jfs.hamilton-co.org.

Word for this Issue

Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanokoniosis

(pneu-mo-nou-ltra-mi-cro-scop-ics-i-li-co-vol-ca-no-co-ni-osis)

A pneumoconiosis caused by the inhalation of very fine silicate or quartz dust.

Last issue's word, syzygy, was submitted by Bill Stautberg. Thanks Bill.

It's Yoga Time, Again!

Sixth Street Studio Yoga Centre is now registering employees for the county's lunch hour yoga classes.



Classes will again be held on Mondays in the County Administration Building.

A six-week session will range from \$36 to \$50 per person, depending on the number of employees registering for the classes. The more the merrier!

To register or if you have questions, send Sarah an e-mail at lunasulis@yahoo.com.



In a previous issue, we congratulated Cheri Wiggins on the release of her CD entitled, *He Did It For Me*.

Two songs from Cheri's CD are now listed #1 and #8 on The Gospel WCVG Top 20 Page. Congratulations Cheri.

Don't waste your holiday

While businesses anticipate high sales this holiday season, landfills anticipate more waste. Between November and January, there is a 25 percent increase in waste nationwide. That's 25 million tons of garbage produced during the holidays. While everyone enjoys giving and receiving, give a gift to the environment and help reduce waste, energy consumption and promote clean air. Here are a few tips to help you to be environmentally friendly this holiday season.

Gift cards

- Send electronic cards. If we each send one less card, we would save 50,000 cubic yards of paper.
- Donate unwanted gifts to organizations in need.
- Consider giving gift certificates or make a donation in someone's name.
- Give gifts that don't require wrapping or create a scavenger hunt around the house.
- When sending items through the mail, choose items that are easy to ship and do not require excess packaging.

Conservation

- Cuddle up by the fire. Light candles instead of turning on lights.
- Turn down the heat before guests arrive and allow the extra body heat to keep the temperature comfortable.
- Use smaller bulbs for outside lighting.
- Don't make unnecessary trips. Combine shopping trips, walk or carpool to neighborhood parties.

Holiday food

- Donate leftovers to shelters or food banks.
- Send leftovers home with your guests.
- Practice portion control and plan meals wisely.
- Compost your food waste. Fruits and vegetables are great composting materials.

By following these tips, you can save time and energy, as well as give a great gift to the environment.

Call the county's recycling hotline at 946.7766 or visit www.hcdoes.org for more information.

Print and post

*Hello,
Hamilton
County*

in your area!

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 23.

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.*