



# Hello, Hamilton County

[www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov](http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov)

E-News for Hamilton County Residents and Staff

January 2006



## County's communications system operating in peak condition

Since the 1950's, the county has transitioned from low band to UHF, and eventually migrated to the 15 site 20 channel ASTRO@25 Release 6.3 system that provides communications for public service and public safety agencies throughout the county today.

In 2000, the county decided it was time to upgrade its system to provide better coverage and take advantage of the added features that a trunked system could provide. This new system provided reliable mobile coverage for fire and EMS users on the county radio system. Selective areas within the county were also afforded portable coverage. In 2003 and 2004 additional upgrades were made to the system, and in 2005 the county migrated to its current system.

Originally, the county planned to put only a limited number of public service users on the system. However, with the strong interest by public safety agencies, particularly fire and police departments, it soon became apparent that a new, expanded support plan was required. Today's communications systems are extremely complex and because the county's new 6.3 system was not a closed network, the system was vulnerable to external security breaches.

In March 2005, the county's Communications Center, Motorola and Mobilcomm worked together to design a support strategy that keeps the county's communications system safe from viruses and external attacks, and provides remote network monitoring to maintain a high level of availability and rapid response. "This is critical," said Greg Wenz, Operations Director for the Communications Center, "when a radio system supports over 3,000 public safety users, and lives and properties are in the balance."

Due to the outstanding performance of the county's public safety radio network, Motorola has published a customer success story detailing the growth of the county's communications system. "We are pleased that Hamilton County has been chosen as a national case study to represent the best in public safety communications," said Communications Center Director, William Hinkle.

Since the time of Motorola Handie Talkies and the advent of the first Motrac vehicular two-way radio, Mobilcomm, a Motorola Service Center for 49 years, has been keeping the county's communications system operating in peak condition.

Source: Motorola's *Customer Success Story*.

### CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

MIKE BOEHMER  
TONIA EDWARDS  
PENNY HEDRICK  
WILLIAM HINKLE  
JUDGE MARK P. PAINTER  
KIM PENNEKAMP  
WHITNEY ROSS  
HOLLY UTRATA-HALCOMB  
DAVID WHELAN  
IDEAS UNLIMITED

### WHAT YOU'LL SEE HERE

COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM  
LEGAL WRITING  
GOOD NEWS  
AWARDS  
BI REACHES OUT  
THE MONTH OF JANUARY  
HEALTH & WELLNESS  
ADOPTION  
BREATHE EASIER  
SWGD EQUINE PROGRAM  
MAMMOGRAPHY SCHEDULE  
SERVICE AWARDS  
COMPOSTER TRAINING  
FAA MONTH  
RESEARCH TIPS  
PROJECT GAIN

## Judge Painter's opinion one of six best in nation

*The Green Bag*, a quarterly journal dedicated to good writing about the law, has announced its fifth annual list of outstanding legal writing from the past year. Of six judicial opinion selected from thousands in the United States, one of Court of Appeals Judge Mark Painter's decisions, *Kohlbrand v. Ranieri*, was selected.



Judge Painter was the only state judge honored. The authors of the five other cases are all federal judges, including Justice Antonin Scalia of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Judge Painter teaches legal writing both at the UC College of Law and at seminars for lawyers and judges throughout the country. He stresses plain English and tells lawyers to ban "legalese." His book, *The Legal Writer: 40 Rules for the Art of Legal Writing*, is now in its third edition.

"The selected case is about plain writing. Lawyers need to see that the luminaries of the profession — the judges, professors, and others on the selection committee agree that plain English matters," said Judge Painter.

The selected case involved a dispute over whether the seller had to indemnify the buyer for an undisclosed easement on a piece of real estate and uses the term "free and clear."

Judge Painter says "free and clear" mean the same thing. Using both is an unnecessary lawyerism. *Free* is English and *clear* is from the Old French *cler*. After the Norman Conquest, English courts were held in French. The Normans were originally Vikings, but after they conquered the region of Normandy, they became French; then they took over England. But most people in England still spoke English. So lawyers started using two words for one. Just as *free* and *clear* mean exactly the same thing, so do *null* and *void* and *due* and *payable* mean the same thing.

"The Norman Conquest was in 1066," said Judge Painter. "We can safely eliminate the couplets now."

Judge Painter has served on the Court of Appeals since 1995, after 13 years on Municipal Court. He is the author of more than 325 nationally published decisions and 91 articles. His four books are *Ohio Driving Under the Influence Law*, *The Legal Writer: 40 Rules for the Art of Legal Writing*, *Ohio Appellate Practice* (co-author), and *William Howard Taft: President & Chief Justice*.

## GOOD NEWS

Tonia Edwards, the county's Building Commissioner, will serve as Treasurer of AIA Cincinnati, the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects, a professional organization of 353 registered architects in the area. Tonia has been on the AIA Cincinnati Board of Directors since 2002.

## Nominate a county employee or county program

- National Association of Counties (NACo) 2006 Acts of Caring Awards**  
 An "act of caring" is a community service provided by a county-sponsored volunteer program that enhances or preserves the quality of life. For information contact Tom Goodman, [tgoodman@naco.org](mailto:tgoodman@naco.org) or 202.942.4222.  
**Deadline: January 27, 2006**
- NACo 2006 Achievement Award Program**  
 The Achievement Award Program is a non-competitive awards program which seeks to recognize innovative county government programs. For information contact Joseph Hansen, 202.661.8834 or [jhansen@naco.org](mailto:jhansen@naco.org).  
**Deadline: February 10, 2006**
- American Society for Public Administrators (ASPA)**  
 Categories include: *Career Achievement*, *Service Innovator*, *Early Careerist*, *Support Services*. For information contact Vicky Earhart, [vearhart@andersontownship.org](mailto:vearhart@andersontownship.org)  
**Deadline: February 24, 2006**

When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps.

~Confucius

## Building Inspections staff reaches out to others during holidays

The 29 staff members of the Department of Building Inspections adopted a family during Christmas.

Most staff members brought several gifts each and others donated over \$60.00 used to purchase food. One staff member purchased a new leather coat for the mother. Two cars were needed to deliver the gifts. Staff experienced the true meaning of Christmas.



The family which consists of the mother and three young children ages 12, 2, and 10 months, was chosen by the SEM Pantry for the department.

The family was faced with receiving no income for the month of December and thus, a very sad Christmas.



The 12-year-old is pictured wearing a sweater that was one of the gifts presented to the family. The 10-month-old is holding a toy, another gift from the staff.

The two-year-old was not at home when the gifts were delivered.

It isn't the  
size of the  
gift that  
matters,  
but the size  
of the heart  
that gives  
it.

Eileen Elias  
Freeman,  
1994

## What's so special about January?

**National Hot Tea Month.** All tea (except for herbal and flavored varieties) comes from the leaves of a warm-weather evergreen. According to the Tea Association of the United States, tea is a \$2.10 billion industry in this country, as well as the second most popular beverage worldwide, after water.



**January 16, Martin Luther King Jr. Day.** In 1977, President Jimmy Carter posthumously awarded Dr. King the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his civil rights leadership. In 1979, Carter urged Congress to designate a national holiday in honor of Dr. King, but it did not come to pass until 1986.



**January 17, Customer Service Day.** A study by the Portland Research Group found that customers typically must call a company two or more times to resolve a problem and that customer intentions to buy in the future drop 76 percent after the second disappointing contact.

**January 15-23, National Skating Week.** Member clubs of the U.S. Figure Skating Association sponsor this week to highlight skating as a family fun activity. "Figure skating" harks back to the time when professional skaters were required to perform "school figures" — such as eights, circles, and loops — in tournaments demanding skill and control.

**January 15-21, International Printing Week.** The International Association of Printing House Craftsmen sponsors this week to bring awareness of the contributions of the printing and the graphic arts industry. The group says there are 31,000 printers in America and Canada. This year's celebration coincides with the 300th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin, the "patron saint" of printing.

Source: *Ideas Unlimited*

Source: *Ideas Unlimited*

## This month in history — *January*

### 10 Years Ago

1996 (January 20) Yasser Arafat is elected president of the Palestinian Authority.

### 15 Years Ago

1991 (January 16) The Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm, begins as air strikes against Iraq are launched.

### 25 Years Ago

1981 (January 20) Ronald Reagan is inaugurated as President; Iran releases 52 American hostages who were held captive for more than a year.

### 30 Years Ago

1976 (January 21) The first commercial Concorde flight takes off.

### 40 Years Ago

1966 (January 25) Constance Baker Motley is the first female African American federal judge.

### 50 Years Ago

1956 (January 9) Abigail Van Buren's "Dear Abby" column first appears in newspapers.

### 95 Years Ago

1911 (January 26) Aviation pioneer Glenn Curtiss successfully takes off from water with the first seaplane.

## Your Health & Wellness

*Aging Well May Mean 'Mind Over Matter'*

By Kim Pennekamp

Successful aging may depend more on a person's attitude and coping style than with avoiding disease or disability. A new survey of older adults over age 60 shows nearly three-fourths felt they were aging well, despite often having physical illness or disability.

Researchers say the results suggest that a self-perception of the aging process relates more to attitude than physical health.

In the study, researchers interviewed more than 500 older Americans who were living independently (not in nursing homes or assisted-living facilities). The participants were asked about their physical and mental health, as well as to rate their own degree of successful aging on a 10-point scale with 10 being more successful.

The results showed the rates of medical illnesses, such as heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and the like, reflected national averages, and about 20% to 25% of the participants had been diagnosed with a mental health condition, also in line with national averages.

According to traditional measures of successful aging — defined by absence of disease and freedom from disability — researchers say less than 10% of the participants would be considered to be aging successfully.

Despite the high rates of illness in the group, researchers found the average successful aging rating was 8.4, and most of the participants who gave themselves high ratings would not meet the traditional criteria for successful aging.

Another indicator of successful aging was a high degree of social and community involvement. Older adults who spent time each day on hobbies, such as reading and writing, or socializing with others, consistently gave themselves higher marks.

People who worked outside the home were also more likely to rate their aging process as successful. Volunteer work did not have as strong an influence.

The study was presented at the annual meeting of the American College Neuropsychopharmacology in Waikoloa, Hawaii, by Dilip Jeste, MD, Professor of Psychiatry and Neurosciences at the University of California at San Diego.

Reported by Jennifer Warner, WebMD Medical News  
Reviewed by Ann Edmundson, MD

# Spend Less

on your prescriptions

Introducing the Hamilton County  
Prescription Discount Card

## Free Enrollment for Hamilton County Residents

- FREE Enrollment
- Average savings of 20%
- No age requirements — you do NOT need to be a Medicare beneficiary to enroll
- No income requirements
- Family coverage
- Use it anytime your prescription is not covered by insurance



To find out how you can get a card, call 946-RxHC (946-7942) or visit [www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov](http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov).

Almost all large chain pharmacies and many independent pharmacies are participating.

- Over 57,000 participating retail pharmacies nationwide.
- Eight out of 10 retail pharmacies participate in the program.

Check at your local pharmacy.

The prescription discount card program is offered through a joint effort of Hamilton County and the National Association of Counties (NACo).

Cardholders: Call toll free 1-877-321-2652 for information.

Pharmacist: The PCN, RxGRP, and full member ID must be submitted online to process claims for this program. For information call 1-800-364-6331.

**This plan is not insurance.**

**Discounts only available at participating pharmacies.**

The details of the Prescription Drug Discount Card Program are being worked through in order that we may better serve our citizens.

Call the hotline, 946.RxHC (946.7942), or check the webpage, [www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov](http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov), in February 2006 for updated information regarding the date cards will be available at local pharmacies.

## Adoption For Information Call 513.632.6366

**Jessica and Brandon**  
**born: February 1995 and November 1992**

Active and energetic, Brandon and Jessica love to play outside. Jessica enjoys cheer-leading and school, as well as playing board games, going to the mall and singing. Brandon loves to read and learn new things. He likes to play basketball and football, especially quarterback, and looks forward to being adopted by a family who cares about him and his sister.



Jessica is intelligent and likes reading scary books and watching scary movies, especially those starring her favorite actor, Will Smith. Brandon enjoys typical teenage pastimes, such as listening to music, spending time outside, watching movies and playing video games. Both of them love to watch football and go to football games.



Courteous, pleasant and responsible are words that describe Jessica well, and Brandon is a respectful and eager young man who likes school and does well in his individual and special education classes. This brother and sister would thrive in an active environment with strong male and female role models who will help them cope with separation and loss. Jessica is academically on-target, but will need ongoing therapy. The adoptive family will need to help Brandon learn to express anger and aggression appropriately, as well as support him with ongoing therapy and medication.

Jessica is academically on-target, but will need ongoing therapy. The adoptive family will need to help Brandon learn to express anger and aggression appropriately, as well as support him with ongoing therapy and medication.

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

Dear Prospective Adoptive Parent:

Thank you for your interest in adoption. Right now, our agency has more than 100 local children waiting to be adopted.

The majority of children available for adoption through Hamilton County Children's Services are African American, over the age of six or part of a sibling group. All of our children have been abused or neglected or were at risk of abuse or neglect. Currently, they are being cared for by foster parents or live in a group facility.

Despite their troubled lives, most of our children laugh and play like other children. They have favorite toys, games and friends. Each one of them has hopes and dreams. For the most part they are normal children but they have not led normal lives. Our children need one or more committed adults who are willing and able to provide a stable, nurturing and loving home.

"Adoption is forever." Adoption of a child through Hamilton County Children's Services is for committed adults willing to help traumatized children cope with their emotions. Adoptive parents must be willing to understand and support a child's attachment to his or her birth family and help that child stay in touch with his or her siblings. If you decide to adopt one of our children, you'll find there are few things in life more challenging or more rewarding. Adoption can not only change a child's life, it can change yours.

As a public agency, Hamilton County Children's Services can help your family throughout the entire adoption process. We provide a full range of adoption services from training to finalization. In addition, support programs and services are available to our families after finalization. If you choose to adopt a child through our agency, the total cost to you is typically under \$200.

The enclosed information is designed to give you a better understanding of adoption. We've included an overview of the process, more information about the children available for adoption and the basic requirements necessary to be an adoptive parent. We hope this information helps you decide whether you are ready to take the next step in the adoption process.

If you are ready to move forward, call 632-6366 and register for the next Open House. Register today. Our children are waiting.

Hamilton County Children's Services  
Adoption and Foster Care Unit

## Breathe easier with these New Year Resolutions

Whitney Ross, Public Affairs Intern, Department of Environmental Services

People across the country vow each new year to make their life better by eating healthier, exercising more or getting out of debt. These resolutions provide individuals with better lifestyles, but have you considered adding a few simple resolutions that could benefit our environment? Here are a few suggestions:

- Don't open burn. Open burning releases harmful chemicals into the air.
- Turn the heat down at night. For every degree the thermostat is set back, you will save one percent on your heating bill. This not only saves money, but also benefits the environment. For every \$100 we pay for electricity, we produce 3,000 pounds of carbon monoxide, 8 pounds of nitrogen oxides, 26 pounds of sulfur dioxide and about 28 milligrams of mercury.
- Scrape the ice before you start your car. This reduces car idle time and helps save on gas.
- Carpool — cars, trucks and buses are the main source of air pollution in Southwest Ohio.
- Ride the bus. Go to [www.sorta.com](http://www.sorta.com) to locate bus routes that work for you.
- Recycle and buy recycled products.

By making a few conscious decisions, these New Year Resolutions can have a positive effect on the air we breathe. For more information on how to support clean air, visit [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org).

## 2006 Mobile Mammography

### When and Where in January

January 18  
Job & Family Services  
222 E. Central Parkway  
8:00 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.

January 25  
River City Correctional  
Center  
3220 Colerain Avenue  
1:00 — 3:00 p.m.

January 26  
Taft Building  
230 E. 9th Street  
8:00 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.

January 27  
County Administration  
Building  
138 E. Court Street  
8:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Women, age 35 and older may contact the Health Alliance Call Center, 686.3300 to schedule a mammography appointment. When scheduling your appointment, please say you are participating through Hamilton County.

- Have available:
- Your full name
  - Employer
  - Insurance plan
  - Date of birth
  - Social security number
  - Desired appointment time and location
  - Name of physician to whom results should be mailed

There is a \$15.00 copay for mammography services for which you will be billed.

### When and Where in February

February 7  
Job & Family Services  
222 E. Central Parkway  
8:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

February 14  
Job & Family Services  
237 William Howard  
Taft Road  
8:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

February 22  
Job & Family Services  
222 E. Central Parkway  
8:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.



## Equine Environmental Assurance Program

Soil & Water Conservation District  
Holly Utrata-Halcomb, Administrator



### Equine Environmental Assurance Program

When: Saturday, February 18, 2006  
8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Where: Butler County Agriculture Building  
1810 Princeton Road  
Hamilton, Ohio 45011

As agriculture acreage in Southwest Ohio has been converted to smaller parcels, we have experienced a rapid growth in the horse population. In some areas of the county, improper handling, application and/or disposal of manure from horse farms is now a leading source of verified agricultural pollution complaints.

The Equine Environmental Assurance Program is designed to educate those in the equine industry with managing these issues. By implementing practical and easy techniques that can be used to improve pastures and handle manure and associated runoff, horse health and environmental protection would benefit.

Hamilton, Butler and Clermont Soil & Water Conservation Districts, (SWCD) along with the county's Storm Water District will sponsor an equine seminar on Saturday, February 18, at the Butler County Agriculture Building, 1810 Princeton Road, Hamilton, Ohio, from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The cost to attend is \$15.00 and includes a manual, continental breakfast and lunch. Call the Hamilton County SWCD, 772.7645 for information or to register for the program.

# SERVICE AWARDS



## 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

**Chris Lane, Job and Family Services.** Chris joined Job and Family Services in December, 1980, as an Ongoing Eligibility Technician. In this position, Chris was responsible for determining eligibility for public assistance programs. Chris was promoted three years later to an Intake Worker position where she worked for eight years. As Intake Worker, Chris provided exemplary service to her clients. In July, 1992, Chris was promoted to Team Leader where she served until 2000. As Team Leader she provided sound leadership and direction to her staff. In September, 2000, Chris was promoted to the position of Technical Services Advisor, where she currently serves in one of the Family and Adult Assistance sections of the Client Services Division. Congratulations Chris. We are grateful for your dedicated service.

**Jerry O'Flynn, Job and Family Services.** Jerry's career at Job and Family Services began in December, 1980. He was hired as an Ongoing Caseworker. Jerry has worked in the Income Maintenance division of the agency for 25 years, and in management for the past 20 years. He is currently Section Chief of one of the Family and Adult Assistance sections. In that capacity, he manages a section of eight units of casework staff responsible for determining eligibility for public assistance (Ohio Works First, Food Stamps, and Medicaid). Jerry has held several frontline and management positions in the organization, including caseworker, Team Leader, Unit Coordinator, Technical Service Advisor, and Section Chief. Jerry holds a Master of Public Administration degree and a Master of Arts degree in Labor and Employee Relations, both from the University of Cincinnati. Jerry has established himself as an expert in the area of Adult Medicaid. He is considered a resource by internal staff and community stakeholders as well. Jerry's team approach to working with both his staff and peers make him a most valued long term employee. We appreciate your service to Hamilton County, Jerry.

## 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

**Karl J. Ullrich, Job and Family Services.** Karl began his career in 1975 as a social worker in Children's Services. He was one of the first workers hired to staff the newly formed 241-KIDS emergency services unit, and was responsible for crisis intervention, investigations of allegations of child abuse and neglect, and counseling children and families. In 1989, Karl became Section Chief of the newly created Quality Initiatives and Performance Improvement Section. This effort toward continuous agency-wide quality improvement included quality assurance, total quality management, employee recognition, consumer satisfaction analysis, suggestion systems, staff and consumer surveys, and other related activities. Karl is currently Section Chief of Children's Services Performance Improvement. His responsibilities include quality assurance, policy development, adoption match committee, out of the home care investigations, compliance with adoption consent decrees and federal corrective action plans, child fatality reviews, consultation and other special projects. Karl is chairperson of the Local Advisory Board of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund. He is a district committee person with the Boy Scouts of America where he does child abuse prevention training for adult leaders. Karl holds a Bachelor degree in Sociology; a Masters in Education, and a PhD in Public Administration. He is licensed as both a social worker and professional counselor and has professional certifications in total quality management, project management, and mediation. Thank you for your service, Karl.

## Master Composter Training 2006

Whitney Ross, Public Affairs Intern,  
Department of Environmental Services

Nature seems to have a way of taking care of itself, one way being through composting. This process, when decayed organic waste is transformed into fertilizer, is a great system to incorporate into a home garden.

The Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati and the county's Solid Waste Management District are partnering to provide a three-week compost training course.

This class informs residents how to determine which compost bin is best for them and how to construct it. The class also discusses the biology of a compost pile and the life cycle of decomposing matter. Participants are also educated on worm bins and are giving the opportunity to make one for a nominal fee.

The three-week course is free and will be offered at two different times.

Spring Classes  
Wednesdays  
March 1, 15, 22  
5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Fall Classes  
Saturdays  
September 2, 9, 16  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

All classes will be held at the Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati, 2715 Reading Road.

Each participant will build and take home a wire compost bin. In order to successfully complete the course, each attendee is required to complete 15 hours of community service. There are numerous volunteer opportunities to fit your schedule and interests.

To register, contact Corina Bullock, Education Specialist at the Civic Garden Center, 221.0381, ext. 11. Or e-mail [cbullock@civicgardencenter.org](mailto:cbullock@civicgardencenter.org).

## Particulate matter and winter weather

Whitney Ross, Public Affairs Intern, Department of Environmental Services

Aggravated asthma, irritated eyes and smog alerts are not things typically associated with a winter wonderland. Smog alerts and sticky weather seem to go together, but smog and snow? It may not sound right, but this is a potential problem of which most residents are not aware.

Particulate matter (PM) is made up of small particles suspended in the air. These collective particles give smog color and can affect visibility. PM is a combination of dust, soot, ash and other solids and aerosols that come from different sources, such as wood burning, factories, power plants, diesel and gasoline engines.



High PM levels can aggravate asthma, increase cardiovascular problems and irritate the eyes, nose and throat. PM particles are extremely small, some measuring only 2.5 microns in size. For comparison, a single human hair is 75 microns in diameter. Since PM 2.5 particles are so small, they can travel deep into the lungs. This can trigger asthma attacks and cause wheezing, coughing and respiratory irritation in sensitive individuals. Children are also at risk because they tend to take shorter and more frequent breaths than adults.

Although PM is more common in the summer, on rare occasions it can also be a concern in the winter months due to the amount of wood burning and energy consumption typical with cold weather. The Department of Environmental Services, Air Quality Management Division measures the levels of PM in the air for Southwest Ohio. This information is reported in Air Quality Index (AQI) which provided to the local media and can also be found at [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org) or by calling the AQI Hotline at 946.7753.



### Word of the Month

(not found in the dictionary)

pregreening (v): the tendency to creep forward while waiting for a red light to change

Source: Merriam-Webster Online

## Celebrating FAA Month

Their work helps provide basic support for thousands of children, families, pregnant women, elderly and disabled persons in Hamilton County.

Throughout January, we recognize the important role that Family and Adult Assistance (FAA) workers at the county's Department of Job and Family Services play in our community.

FAA Month (formerly called Income Maintenance Month) presents an opportunity to salute the employees who administer cash assistance — Ohio Works First (OWF), Ohio Direction Card (food stamps), and Medicaid.

It's a demanding job with great payoffs, such as helping a child or family overcome a rough time and regain solid footing. A number of thank you letters from appreciative clients and high marks in monthly customer-satisfaction surveys demonstrate FAA's vital role.

Teresa Powell of FAA1 got a letter of appreciation thanking her for good service and a sincere attitude to help others. "It's a blessing to know you are out there fighting in the trenches...," states the letter from a person who was helping a client with severe health issues apply for assistance.

Another client wrote a heartfelt letter to Linda Black-Standifer of FAA2 thanking her for enrolling her son in Healthy Start/Health Families Medicaid. She said her son has quite a few medical disabilities and his medication costs along have put her in continual debt. She no longer has this huge worry. She called the medical card "a gift from above." She thanked Black-Standifer for prompt attention to her case.

Despite growing caseloads, especially food stamps, complex regulations, staff retention issues and other challenges, FAA continues to persevere and help families on a path toward economic self-sufficiency. Swift, accurate and courteous deliver of benefits makes a big difference in the lives of those they serve. State and federal program rules stress timeliness and accuracy.

For a closer look at the agency's FAA programs, visit [www.hcjfs.org](http://www.hcjfs.org).



**Print and post**



*Hello,  
Hamilton County*

**in your work area!**

### A time saving research tip

David Whelan, Law Librarian,  
County Law Library

Got a New Year's resolution but not enough time to keep it? Use this quick research tip to save time that you can use for your other goals. Didn't have time to make a resolution? These tips can help you too!

#### More Precise Searches

Google ([www.google.com](http://www.google.com)) is a leading Internet search engine, and can be used to find all sorts of information. Often you can find more than you want.

Try limiting your search to the web site that has what you need. For example, if you are looking for a 1040 tax form, it's almost certainly on the Internal Revenue Service web site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

Instead of going to the IRS web site and searching or clicking through their site, go to Google and ask it to look for the form for you, but only on the IRS web site. Do this by typing in the search box:

1040 site:[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)



Search for recent Ohio case law by typing:

site:[www.sconet.state.oh.us/ROD/](http://www.sconet.state.oh.us/ROD/)



For child care provider forms type:

site:[www.hcjfs.hamilton-co.org](http://www.hcjfs.hamilton-co.org)



Let Google eliminate some of the hunting for information, and you can eliminate having to learn a new search engine at each web site you visit.

## The Board of County Commissioners



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



Commissioner  
Pat DeWine  
Vice President  
pat.dewine@hamilton-co.org



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

County's Website: [www.hamilton-co.org](http://www.hamilton-co.org)



**Martin Luther King Jr.**  
1929 — 1968

## "Got News?"

Send an e-mail to:  
[sharon.booker@hamilton-co.org](mailto:sharon.booker@hamilton-co.org).

Next issue deadline: **January 27**

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.*

## Project Gain



The Board of County Commissioners is excited about the prospect of providing monetary awards to county employees for Project Gain programs which result in cost savings or revenue enhancements for the county. Four county departments have already implemented programs with a total projected savings of more than \$170,000.

It is the desire of Commissioners Phil Heimlich, Pat DeWine, and Todd Portune that all county departments participate in Project Gain. The Commissioners believe Project Gain provides a means to reward all eligible county employees for contributions to the efficient operation of county government. The gain sharing program is designed to improve employee morale and share part of the gain with employees when the goals of the program are met.

The Project Gain Guidelines are available at [http://www.hamilton-co.org/hc/bocc/gain\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.hamilton-co.org/hc/bocc/gain_guidelines.pdf). Please review the guidelines to learn how the program works. Sharon Booker can be contacted to schedule a meeting with your department/agency to offer further details of the program and answer your questions.

The Board has received very positive reports describing the progress of the programs in place. After reviewing the guidelines, call Sharon for suggestions as to how you and your coworkers can share in the rewards offered by Project Gain.

To schedule a Project Gain information session for your department/agency, call Sharon or send an e-mail – 946.4428 or [sharon.booker@hamilton-co.org](mailto:sharon.booker@hamilton-co.org).

