



Hello Hamilton County

January 2009

E-News for Hamilton County citizens and employees

Quote of the month:

"Be absolutely determined to enjoy what you do."

~Gerry Sikorski

Hamilton County Welcomes Commissioner Greg Hartmann, Clerk of Courts Patricia Clancy, and Recorder Wayne Coates

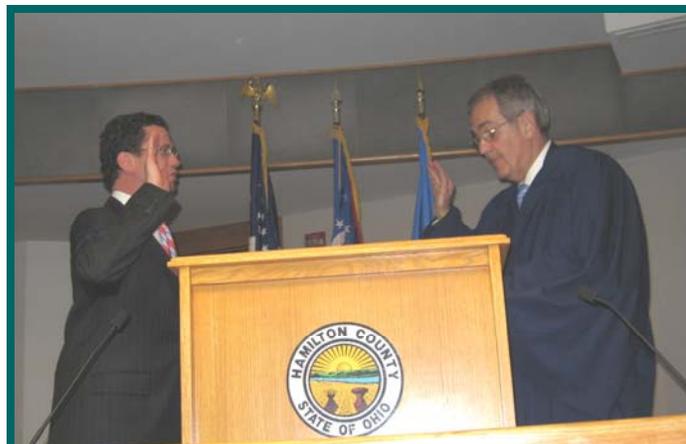
Hamilton County begins the new year with three County organizations welcoming new elected officials. Patricia Clancy begins serving as the Clerk of Courts, Wayne Coates is the new Recorder, and Greg Hartmann is starting his new role of County Commissioner.

Both County Recorder Coates and County Commissioner Hartmann held investiture ceremonies on January 5th. Clerk of Courts Clancy will hold a ceremony on January 26th.

To learn more about these elected officials, please see p. 3.



Clerk of Courts
Patricia Clancy



Commissioner Greg Hartmann takes the
Oath of office on January 5th,
administered by Judge Norbert Nadel.

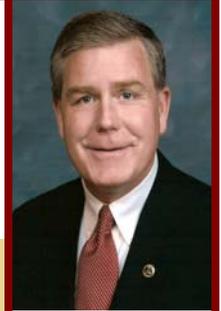


Recorder Wayne Coates
takes the Oath of Office
on January 5th, adminis-
tered by Judge Ted Barry.



Patrick's Perspective

County's Strengths will Prompt Success in 2009



**Patrick
Thompson,
Hamilton County
Administrator**

As I approach my fourth year as Hamilton County Administrator, I continue to be impressed with the strengths of our County government. These strengths will lead to our success as we face challenges in 2009. Although we will be operating this year within the smallest budget since 1999, we will draw on our strengths to ensure that Hamilton County government provides services in the best way possible this year.

Our strengths that will ensure success include:

- **Teamwork.** As we prepared the 2009 budget, the leaders of Hamilton County government worked diligently to balance the budget. While every Hamilton County organization provides valuable service and had to make painful decisions, every organization sacrificed as needed. This cooperation was evident throughout the budget process. **It was impressive and much appreciated.** This willingness to cooperate is one of our greatest strengths, and it will enable the county to succeed in 2009.

- **Leadership.** Hamilton County's elected officials, top administrators, and managers are facing these challenging financial times with the fortitude to make good decisions that will enable our County government to persevere in serving efficiently and effectively. The Board of County Commissioners emphasized in their consensus 2009 budget motion that each department head and independently elected official should determine the manner in which they manage within the funding level provided. Hamilton County's leaders are knowledgeable, and they are dedicated to using their skills to make the best decisions for their organizations and for our community. Their ability to make decisions (decisions that are sometimes tough) to ensure services are provided the best way possible is a strength that will help sustain Hamilton County's excellence in 2009.

- **Service.** Hamilton County employees strive to provide the best service possible to our community. They apply their knowledge and experi-

ence to every situation and are encouraged to share ideas for making services better. In 2008, we saw these strengths as employees from a variety of departments submitted Project Gain programs to save money for the county. We also saw these strengths last year as employees from multiple county organizations devoted extra efforts to helping residents after the windstorms in September. We can count on Hamilton County's caring, helpful employees to ensure that our community gets the service it deserves in 2009.

I look forward to demonstrating to our community throughout the year how teamwork, leadership and service are alive and well at Hamilton County. Let's hope that this time next year, we'll look back and see that the toughest times are over — and that together, we have achieved impressive things for Hamilton County.

I wish everyone the best in 2009!



Elected Officials Begin Work in their New Roles

Greg Hartmann County Commissioner



Greg Hartmann began his term as a County Commissioner on January 5th, but he will have already served Hamilton County for about ten years. Hartmann began his career with the County as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney with the Prosecutor's Office. He worked there until he was named Clerk of Courts in February 2003.

During his almost six years as Clerk of Courts, Hartmann focused on technological advancement, cost savings, and outstanding customer service.

Hartmann graduated from Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia and then from Pepperdine University's School of Law.

Two newly elected Court of Common Pleas Judges begin serving this year. They are:



Judge Pat DeWine
Term begins
January



Judge Jerry Metz
Term begins
February

Patricia Clancy Clerk of Courts



Patricia Clancy was born and raised in Hamilton County, having lived most of her life in Colerain Township. She is a licensed real estate agent, a licensed substitute teacher, and has dedicated much of her career to public service.

Clancy served as a Trustee for Colerain Township, served as an Ohio State Representative from 1996—2004, and as an Ohio Senator from 2004—2007. Most recently, Clancy served as the Assistant Chief Probation Officer for Hamilton County.

Clancy earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education from the University of Cincinnati.

Wayne Coates Recorder



Wayne Coates begins his term as Recorder with experience in both real estate and government. Coates is the owner of Coates Realty, and he has been a realtor since 1981. He has been active in the field, serving as the Legislative Chairman of the Cincinnati Area Board of Realtors and as a Trustee of the Ohio Association of Realtors.

Coates also has experience as a public servant. He served one term as a State Representative to the 124th Ohio General Assembly. He served on Forest Park's City Council from December 1989—1995. Coates was the Mayor of the City of Forest Park from 1995—1999. Since December 2005, Coates served as Courtroom Bailiff for Hamilton County Municipal Court Judge Ted Berry.



Many Elected Officials Re-Elected in November Beginning New Terms This Year



County Commissioner Todd Portune takes the Oath of Office on January 7th, administered by County Commissioner David Pepper.

Many Hamilton County elected officials begin their new terms this month, after being re-elected in the November election. They include:

- County Commissioner Todd Portune
- Coroner Dr. O'dell M. Owens
- Engineer Bill Brayshaw
- Prosecuting Attorney Joseph T. Deters
- Sheriff Simon L. Leis, Jr.
- Judge Kim Wilson Burke, Court of Common Pleas Drug Court
- Judge Jody Luebbers, Court of Common Pleas
- Judge Melba D. Marsh, Court of Common Pleas
- Judge Norbert A. Nadel, Court of Common Pleas

Other officials who were re-elected in November actually begin their new terms later this year. They include:

- Treasurer Robert A. Goering—Term begins in September.
- Judge James Cissell, Court of Common Pleas Probate Division—Term begins in February
- Judge Ethna Marie Cooper, Court of Common Pleas—Term begins in February
- Judge Karla J. Grady, Court of Common Pleas Juvenile Division—Term begins in February
- Judge Charles J. Kubicki, Jr., Court of Common Pleas—Term begins in February
- Judge Beth Mattingly, Court of Common Pleas Domestic Relations—Term begins in July
- Judge Beth A. Meyers, Court of Common Pleas—Term begins in February
- Judge Robert C. Winkler, Court of Common Pleas—Term begins in February



Commissioner David Pepper Selected to Receive Aspen Institute Rodel Fellowship in Public Leadership

Commissioner David Pepper has been named to receive an Aspen Institute Rodel Fellowship in Public Leadership. The Fellowship in Public Leadership program works to enhance American democracy by convening the nation's most promising young political leaders in a casual, bipartisan setting to explore:

- the underlying values and principles of western democracy
- the relationship between individuals and their community
- and the responsibilities of public leadership.

When asked what prompted him to apply for the fellowship, Pepper replied, "I actually didn't apply. They selected me

and called out of the blue to let me know. I was honored that they selected me. And glad that the scheduling allows me to do it without interfering with my County work."

The group will begin their dialogue when they convene for the first time in January 2009; they will meet two more times over the course of their 24-month Fellowship. Pepper says, "Basically, I enjoy and benefit greatly from meeting with and learning from other elected leaders in similar positions about how we can all do better in addressing the challenges we face. In this case, it's a bipartisan group, which should make it particularly interesting."



Although he is incurring all expenses himself and Pepper's participation in the fellowship program won't cost Hamilton County taxpayers a dime, Pepper anticipates that the county will benefit from his participation. Pepper says, "I hope to apply lessons learned in every way I can back here in Hamilton County--from how to improve government performance, to how to bolster our economy, to how to lead at challenging times, to how to work better across party lines."



County Clerk's Innovation Streamlines Process, Saves Money



Hamilton County Innovates!



Deloris Sinclair, Assistant County Clerk, and Jacqueline Panioto, Hamilton County Clerk

Money is being saved County wide, and we have Jacqueline Panioto, the Hamilton County Clerk, to thank for that! Jacqueline and her assistant Deloris Sinclair implemented a new process for the Board of County Commissioners' Agenda Packet Processing.

Here is some background about the weekly Board of County Commissioners' Agenda Item processing process. For as long as can be remembered, county departments and agencies sent their original agenda items, which included any backup documentation, along with sixteen copies to the Board each week for the Board Meeting. The sixteen copies got sorted and distributed to the three Commissioners, media, department and agency heads and other perti-

nent individuals so they could prepare themselves for the board meetings. The stacks each week were massive, sometimes standing 18 to 20 inches high! This happened each week!

Since so much paper was being used each week, Jacqueline decided it was time to change the process and go electronic. Now, agencies send only the original agenda item, along with any supporting documentation, to Jacqueline each week. Jacqueline and Deloris scan the agenda items and supporting documents and send them out electronically. Individuals don't have to physically pick up the stack of agenda items any longer. The data arrives on their personal computers. It is a more efficient process, and it's less expen-

sive.

The cost to implement the new format was virtually nonexistent. The Regional Computer Center helped with the system work, a thumb drive was purchased for about ten dollars, and the laptops the Commissioners are now using to view the documents during the meeting are restored surplus laptops that cost nothing!

The new process was implemented in June of 2008, and it's working out great. The Commissioners are used to the new process and are happy to be saving trees and money. It's estimated that this new process is saving well over \$10,000 annually county-wide.

Great job Jacqueline and Deloris!



Hamilton County Environmental Services Encourages All to Make the Resolution to Reduce Waste This Year

With 2008 behind us and 2009 in its earliest days, now is the perfect time to get rid of bad disposing habits and reduce unnecessary waste once and for all. If you're serious about going green this year, the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District has a few simple ideas that will help make waste reduction a resolution you can keep.

One of the easiest ways to minimize your solid waste contribution is to reduce the consumption of disposable materials. In many ways, the disposable items you use every day are like junk food in your diet—you don't really need them, they're best when used sparingly, and they're easy to cut back on with simple lifestyle changes. You can make a huge impact just by using fewer disposable items and incorporating reusable products into your daily routine.

If you start every work day with a cup of coffee, for example, replace any Styrofoam and paper cups with your own thermos or mug. If you drink bottled water at your desk and a can of soda at lunch, invest in reusable bottles for these drinks as well. By replacing just those cups, bottles and cans, at the end of the work week you will have already eliminated 15 disposable items from your weekly waste

contribution!

If you're like most consumers, your biggest waste indulgence is probably the plastic shopping bag. While they may seem convenient, cheap and harmless, plastic bags quickly add up to big waste. To cut unnecessary waste out of your shopping routine, invest in reusable bags. Easy to tote and well worth the money, reusable bags are a great investment for our environment. According to reusablebags.com, each reusable bag you use has the potential to eliminate an average of 1,000 plastic bags over its lifetime.

To help get customers in the habit of reducing waste, many businesses in our area offer incentives to those who reuse. Starbucks, for example, offers a 10 cent drink discount for customers who use their own mug. Kroger, Whole Foods and Biggs all offer discounts for customers

who use reusable bags, and Whole Foods has eliminated plastic bags from its stores. Many other stores are beginning to pick up green policies as well, so ask around where you shop and always bring your reusable bags—you may be pleasantly surprised with a bonus for being green.

When you can't reuse, get a bin and recycle. Recycling saves resources, conserves energy, makes new products and helps our local economy. The following items are recyclable in Hamilton County:

- Plastic bottles and jugs (remove lids)
- Glass bottles and jars (remove lids)
- Steel cans, aluminum cans and empty aerosol cans (remove tips and lids)
- Newspapers and magazines
- Office paper, junk mail and envelopes
- Phone books and catalogs
- Cardboard and paperboard

For more information about local recycling, call the Hamilton County Recycling Hotline at 946-7766.

By committing to reusable products and small lifestyle changes, you can make 2009 your greenest year yet.





Foster Child Enrichment Council Ensures That Children in Need Receive Holiday Gifts Plan Now to Donate in 2009!



Gifts Donated for Distribution to Children in December 2008.

In December, the Foster Child Enrichment Council continued its tradition of trying to make sure that Hamilton County children in need had a gift to open during the holiday season. The organization coordinates donations that go to children and families who are involved with the Job and Family Services' Children's Services Division.

Children's Services is the public child protection agency in Hamilton County. At any point in time, JFS caseworkers are involved with about 8,000 children who come from difficult family circumstances and have typically suffered some kind of mistreatment.

JFS employees volunteer their time with the Council to coordinate a variety of giving efforts, including the Adopt-a-Family program and the giving tree initiative. Throughout the year,

they use donations to help fund extracurricular activities for children in foster care.

Mark Eling, a supervisor in Children's Services Care Management, said more than 200 donors supplied gifts and sponsored Adopt-a-Family during the holidays. Donations are generously provided by Our Lady of Rosary Church, the Computer Service Department of Xavier University, JFS employees, private individuals, JFS work groups, and others. There were 55 Adopt-a-Family recipients this year, and thousands of gifts poured in for them.

Eling says that unfortunately, "There are never enough gifts to go around for all 8,000 children we are active with." He says 2008 was tough and donations were down, but a last minute donor was very generous,

enabling the group to distribute about 75% as many gifts as in 2007. Eling says the gifts for teens are always the biggest need.

You can help support this worthy cause! Coordinate with your friends, family, or work group today to plan a giving initiative for 2009. If people give small amounts each month or buy items on sale throughout the year to donate in December, it can make a big difference for children in need. You can help these children see that people care. Your donations will provide them with needed items that will mean so much and will be greatly appreciated. If you plan now, you can make it happen!

For more information about how you can help, please contact Mark Eling at 946-1303.



Find Great Items and Bargains On the Hamilton County Surplus Auction!

Resolve to get great deals
in 2009
on a variety of items
using Hamilton County's
Online Surplus Auction!

Whether you need
office furniture, jewelry,
vehicles, or more,
you can find bargains every day
using the Surplus Auction.

For example,
until January 12th,
you can bid on
11 Panasonic Toughbook
Laptops,
a Gateway Solo 5300 laptop,
and more.



See what kind of items and bargains you can find using the county's online public auction!
www.hamiltoncountyohioauction.com



Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services Says It's Not Too Late to Recycle Your Christmas Tree

Christmas comes but once a year, but recycled Christmas trees benefit the environment year round. Start the new year off right: put your old tree to work in order to eliminate post-holiday waste.

Hamilton County yardwaste drop-off sites will be open and accepting trees on Saturday, January 10th. Hamilton County residents can drop off trees to be composted at the following three locations on:

- **January 10th**
- **11:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.**
- **East:** Turpin Farm – 3295 Turpin Lane (off Rt. 32), Anderson Township
- **West:** Kuliga Park – 6717 Bridgetown Road, Green Township
- **North:** Rumpke Sanitary Landfill – Struble Road & Colerain Avenue, Colerain Township

Remember to prepare your tree for its new life by removing any ornaments, lights or tinsel before bringing it to the drop-off.

Many Hamilton County communities also provide their own programs for collecting or dropping off Christmas trees. To learn more about the community tree recycling programs available where you live, check out your community's website or visit www.hamiltoncountycycles.org.

By taking advantage of the many ways that your tree can be used as a renewable and recyclable resource, you help promote responsible waste management throughout Hamilton County.

For more information about the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District and the yardwaste drop-off program, call the yardwaste hotline at 946-7755 or visit www.hamiltoncountycycles.org.



Caring Families are Needed!



Christopher
July 1993

Christopher enjoys school and does well in his classes. He likes performing experiments in science class. After school he likes to spend time collecting rocks or playing football and basketball outside. This reserved teen also listens to music and likes reading about and practicing, origami. He says his best feature is his pretty eyes.

For more information about Christopher contact Cathie Hooks at (513) 946-7431 or hooksc@jfs.hamilton-co.org.

To learn more about others available for adoption, Please call 513-632-6366 or visit www.hcadopt.org.



Please post “Hello Hamilton County,” so everyone can see what’s going on!

Hello Hamilton County is published monthly. It is designed to inform citizens and employees about news and events related to Hamilton County government and our community in general. You can find current and archived editions on the County’s website. If you have questions, suggestions, or article submissions, please contact Laura Maus.

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