



# Hello Hamilton County

February 2008

E-News for Hamilton County citizens and employees

Quote of the month:

*"You can't build a reputation on things you are going to do."*

*~Henry Ford*

## Board of County Commissioners Recognizes Hamilton County Employees for their Innovative Project Gain Project



Employees from the Purchasing Division of the Hamilton County Administrator's Office were recognized Wednesday at the Commissioner's Board Meeting for a Project Gain Program they implemented.

Project Gain is a recognition program that provides Hamilton County employees the opportunity to earn 50% of the revenue or savings realized when their ideas are implemented.

The Purchasing Division's program entailed obtaining contracts from local jurisdictions to utilize Hamilton County's on-line auction site to sell their obsolete equipment. Hamilton County implemented the on-line auction system in 2003 to sell obsolete equipment. This program increased revenue to Hamilton County while providing valuable shared services with affordable service fees to local jurisdictions that do not have an on-line auction in place for selling obsolete equipment. This was all possible by re-allocating staff responsibilities to enable fulfillment of contractual obligations.

The new process brought in \$5,360 in new revenue for Hamilton County in 2007. Eight employees will share in this savings. On Wednesday, along with their pay checks, they each received an award of \$335! Congratulations to the following employees for their participation with this program:

- JoAnn Cramer
- Amy Hoh
- Mike Hopper
- Thomas Kamphaus
- Cheryl Matevia
- Gina Richmond
- Shelly Walls
- Jill Williams

Hamilton County employees can work with their teams to submit a program to Project Gain, and they may earn an extra monetary award like the employees from the Purchasing Division! Please call Evelyn Stephenson at 946-4707 with questions pertaining to the Project Gain Program.



## Hamilton County Wants to Take Citizens "Out to the Ballgame"

As the Reds start their spring training schedule, Hamilton County residents are being offered the special opportunity to see a Reds game from the County's suite at Great American Ball Park during the upcoming 2008 season. Beginning today, applicants can register on-line at [www.HamiltonCountyOhio.gov](http://www.HamiltonCountyOhio.gov) or by sending in a postcard entry including the Hamilton County resident's name, address and phone number to:

**Reds Drawing**  
**c/o Hamilton County Board of Commissioners**  
**138 East Court Street, Rm 603**  
**Cincinnati, Ohio 45202**

Hamilton County will provide its suite at Great American Ball Park for use by Reds fans selected through random drawings. The county's suite will accommodate ten people for each game, allowing five individual winners and his/her guest to attend the game. The county will hold monthly drawings throughout the season. Winners will be provided food and soft drinks while in the county's suite. Last year, the drawing generated over 10,000 entries from Hamilton County citizens.

In addition to this opportunity for residents selected through random drawings, the suite at Great American Ball Park will be used



by groups such as foster families, county volunteers, the county's Employees of the Year, and volunteer instructors in the county's employee training program.

The drawing for April games will take place on Wednesday, March 19th, immediately following the Commissioners' public meeting. The drawing is open to Hamilton County residents only. One entry per resident is accepted. Winners must respond within 48 hours following the drawing.

## Purchase a Piece of The Great American Ballpark through Hamilton County's Surplus Auction

You can purchase one lot of Great American Ballpark wall pads. Your bid will get you every wall pad that is pictured on the Hamilton County surplus auction website — the top bidder gets them all in one lot! There are many more than are pictured here.

All wall pads have been removed and are being stored under Main Street. Some of the wall pads are plain, and others have decals or lettering on them.

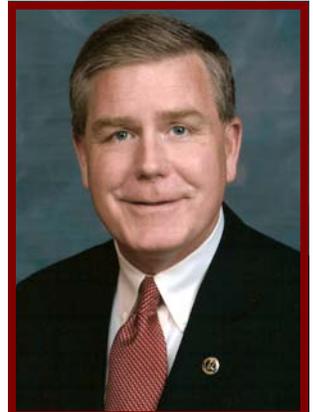
For more information on how you can purchase the wall pads, check out the Hamilton County Surplus Auction. The wall pads are item Reference #0208042, and the auction for these items ends on Sunday, March 2nd.

[www.hamiltoncountyauction.com](http://www.hamiltoncountyauction.com)





## County Administrator's Column: Hamilton County's Innovation Efforts



Patrick Thompson  
Hamilton County  
Administrator

Innovation is thriving in Hamilton County! Corporations like Proctor and Gamble and GE Aircraft Engines reward innovation and continually develop new products while enhancing existing products. Doug Hall's Eureka Ranch in Hamilton County invites businesspeople from around the nation to generate new ideas.

Hamilton County Administration places a high value on innovation as well. We encourage every employee to think of and implement ideas that add value for Hamilton County. Ideas add value in a variety of ways. Ideas might result in cost savings, efficiencies, or increased productivity which improve how we do business and enhance our community. Ideas add value. We want to put them to work for Hamilton County.

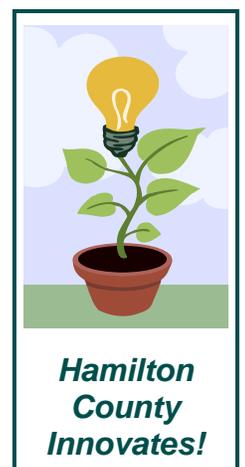
Employees who work for Hamilton County are currently focusing on innovation. We encourage our employees to think of more ideas which add value for Hamilton County. Our focus on innovation involves a few different components:

- **Training employees on innovation.** Every employee who works for the Board of County Commissioners is participating in a training course called, "Hamilton County Innovates." Employees learn about our county government's strong history of innovation, how to use a variety of think-

ing strategies to develop new ideas, and how to use processes to develop and implement ideas.

- **Making innovation a performance expectation.** Employees are expected to use innovative behaviors and practices regularly as part of their jobs. 2008 performance reviews include innovation as a standard by which employees will be evaluated.
- **Providing recognition and rewards for innovation.** Our employees are encouraged to continue to submit ideas to the Project Gain program and potentially earn 50% of the savings or revenue generated by their ideas! In addition, employees can submit ideas to the Fresh Ideas program, which recognizes not only financial results, but ideas that enhance service or increase efficiency.

I recognize our employees are a great source of ideas and innovation. I encourage everyone to help put these ideas into action to better serve our county. Thank you.





## Child Abuse Awareness Event Wins Award



These photos show the award-winning Pinwheels for Prevention display, an event which drew attention to the issue of child abuse.



Hamilton County's Pinwheels for Prevention child abuse awareness event won the best award in the Public Service/Tactic category at the 2007 Blacksmith Awards presented by the Cincinnati Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

The Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services was recognized along with the top PR agencies, departments and practitioners in the metro area at an award ceremony attended by more than 100 people at the Contemporary Arts Center in January.

"Child abuse is a major problem in Hamilton County," states the award entry. "Yet, many county residents remain unaware of the

magnitude." To build awareness, the county's leading child abuse prevention organizations — including Job and Family Services, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, the Hamilton County Family and Children First Council, and the Council on Child Abuse of Southern Ohio — staged the highly visible Pinwheels for Prevention in March and April of 2007. It was part of the national Pinwheels for Prevention campaign.

Students from inner city high schools planted more than 5,600 colorful pinwheels — one for each reported case of child abuse in the county in a year — in a lot in the heart of Cincinnati, within the view of thousands of fans attending Reds baseball

games and visitors to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. The coalition sought to attract the attention of passers-by and, more importantly, the media.

They used a variety of strategies to plan and publicize this event, and it worked! The dramatic display made a powerful statement in newspaper photos and TV footage. Many residents made a special trip downtown to take their own photos. The simplicity of the display helped build awareness in citizens of all ages and backgrounds. In just its second year, the annual Hamilton County Pinwheels for Prevention display has increased awareness greatly.



Julian Wagner,  
Hamilton County  
Human Resources.

## Julian Wagner Helps Hamilton County Share Information With College Students

When Hamilton County Human Resources Personnel Officer Julian Wagner speaks to college students, it's a win-win. The students benefit, because they learn needed information from a dynamic, engaging speaker with lots of practical experience. Hamilton County benefits, because these students know more about the services that Hamilton County Job and Family Services (HCJFS) provides for our community and about job opportunities within the County.

Wagner's role involves speaking with college students in class as a subject matter expert and also recruiting on college campuses.

Wagner began speaking to college students as part of his role with HCJFS. He held positions in Children's Services and then in Human Resources. Throughout, Wagner kept his name on the speaker's list that HCJFS maintains. That meant that local organizations, including col-

leges and universities, could contact him when they needed an expert to speak with their classes.

Wagner recently spoke to social work students at the University of Cincinnati's Raymond Walters College to describe how HCJFS social workers' work impacts our community. Wagner also helped them learn about the types of social work positions that are available with Hamilton County.

Another topic that Wagner teaches to students participating in a Human Resources Masters program is about the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) laws and practices. In the two-hour class, Wagner teaches them the components of the law and explains employer's responsibilities. He provides information about handling EEO investigations and gives examples of the types of EEO cases on which he has worked. Wagner says, "I talk from my experience and give real examples. That way, it's not boring and they learn from my experiences."

Wagner's contact with college students doesn't end there. A large part of his role in HR is recruiting. Wagner says that the team relies on a variety of recruiting strategies that are very successful, including advertising in local media and attending local expos and job fairs. But a large part of the re-

cruiting strategy involves reaching out to college students at over 20 different schools.

Wagner says he likes working with college students — especially when they're sophomores or juniors. "We try to plant the seed and tell them what kind of experience they need so they're ready to meet the minimum qualifications when they graduate." Wagner says he likes recruiting at college fairs, because, "I enjoy being seen as a representative for Hamilton County and developing an instant rapport with the students, so they can see that Hamilton County is a customer friendly environment. It's important for social services that we provide quality customer service."

Wagner's managers in HR agree that his work makes an important difference.

Wagner's supervisor, Joe Gagliardo, says, "Julian's ability to engage his audience in a friendly, helpful, professional manner makes him an excellent recruiter for the JFS. Both students and applicants recall their positive interaction with him. He really is an ambassador for the agency."

Gary Berger, the HR Director, says, "What really impresses me about Julian is the passion he has for his work. It is very evident that Julian is dedicated to his job and to the success of HCJFS."



## Hamilton County Offers Free Collection Programs to Residents

Spring is not too far away, and to help with your Spring cleaning, the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District will be offering free programs for proper disposal of your unwanted materials. The programs listed below are free of charge for Hamilton County residents only.

For more information about these free collection programs — including further details about acceptable and unacceptable items — call the Recycling Hotline at 946-7766 or visit [www.hamiltoncountyrecycles.org](http://www.hamiltoncountyrecycles.org).

### Computer Recycling Collection Program March 31—December 30, 2008

Recycle old computer equipment such as monitors, CPUs, hard drives, mice, keyboards, laptops, docking stations, back-up batteries, power cords, speakers, modems, external hard drives, memory chips, storage chips, cellular phones, printers, scanners, and desktop fax machines using this free collection program. You may drop off materials at this location:

**Technology Recycling Group**  
5139 Kieley Place  
St. Bernard, OH 45217  
Monday—Friday  
8 a.m.—4 p.m.  
Closed on all major holidays.

### Yardwaste Drop-Off Sites March 29—November 30, 2008

Hamilton County residents can recycle or compost twigs, leaves, brush, grass clippings, and other yardwaste at one of three yardwaste drop-off sites, including:

**East: Turpin Farm**  
3295 Turpin Ln.  
Anderson Township  
Monday—Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Saturday—Sunday: 11:30 a.m.—5 p.m.  
Closed May 26, July 4, September 1 and November 27.

**West: Kuliga Park**  
6717 Bridgetown Rd  
Green Township  
Saturday—Sunday: 11:30 a.m.—5 p.m.

**North: Rumpke Sanitary Landfill**  
Struble Rd. and Colerain Ave.  
Colerain Township  
Saturday—Sunday: 11:30 a.m.—5 p.m.

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program March 1—November 22, 2008

Hamilton County residents can visit one of two locations to dispose of items such as paint, propane tanks, batteries, driveway sealer and pesticides:

**Central\*:** **Environmental Enterprises, Inc.**  
4650 Spring Grove Ave.  
(Entrance directly across from Winton Rd.)  
Tuesdays: 2 p.m.—6 p.m.  
Saturdays: 9 a.m.—1 p.m.  
\*Closed March 22, May 24, July 5 and August 30.

**North: Environmental Enterprises, Inc.**  
10163 Cincinnati-Dayton Rd.  
Wednesdays: 2 p.m.—6 p.m.



## A Caring Family is Needed!



### **Sherria and Savannah Born December 1990 and May 1992**

Sherria is a fun and energetic teenager who enjoys being around people and making friends in her social studies class at school. After school she enjoys playing outside and going swimming. The neighborhood recreation center is one of Sherria's favorite places to go.

Savannah has a beautiful, bright smile and a warm personality that makes her pleasant to be around. She enjoys school, especially reading and math. After school, like Sherria, Savannah's favorite thing to do is to go swimming.

Savannah also likes to read, watch cartoons and listen to music. Her favorite foods are chips and noodles. Puppies are her favorite animal. Like other teenagers her age, she enjoys going to the mall and shopping.

Sherria and Savannah are both courteous young woman who make good grades in their individualized and special education classes. Both will need ongoing therapy, and Savannah will possibly require life-long supervision.

**To learn more about Sherria, Savannah, and others available for adoption,  
Please call 513-632-6366 or visit [www.hcadopt.org](http://www.hcadopt.org).**



### **Please post "Hello Hamilton County," so everyone can see what's going on!**

Hello Hamilton County is published twice each month. 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 or Eric Stuckey.

Laura Maus: 513-946-4708  
[Laura.maus@hamilton-co.org](mailto:Laura.maus@hamilton-co.org)

Eric Stuckey: 513-946-4303  
[Eric.stuckey@hamilton-co.org](mailto:Eric.stuckey@hamilton-co.org)