



Hello Hamilton County

March 2010

E-News for Hamilton County citizens and employees

Quote of the month:

"People are going to be most creative and productive when they're doing something they're really interested in. So having fun isn't an outrageous idea at all. It's a very sensible one."

~ John Sculley

Saving Homes in Hamilton County: Successful Foreclosure Prevention Effort Expanded

Hamilton County's successful anti-foreclosure program is about to triple in scale, thanks to an agreement reached among Commissioner David Pepper, Prosecutor Joe Deters, Treasurer Rob Goering and the state legislature. Commissioner Pepper presented, and the Board approved, the contract today for the expansion of the program.



foreclosure. With the estimated community cost of a foreclosure being as much as \$60,000, the investment of the Hamilton County Commission and the City of Cincinnati in this counseling has preserved more than \$100 million in property value which would have been lost, had the foreclosures occurred.

For several years, the Commissioners invested

between \$75,000 and \$100,000 from the Community Development Block Grant allocation to support this work. After today's contract, Hamilton County Treasurer Robert Goering and Prosecutor Joe Deters will each invest an additional \$100,000 into the program, greatly expanding the capacity to help homeowners.

"Today's action is a great example how elected officials can work across party lines," Pepper said. "Thousands of homeowners and many communities will benefit as a result."

"The cooperative effort was effective," said Commissioner Greg Hartmann. "Legislators really got together and helped in Columbus. It was a good approach."

Since 2007, the Hamilton County Homeowner Preservation Initiative has provided free housing counseling to homeowners facing potential foreclosure. The partnership includes the County, City of Cincinnati, Legal Aid, Working in Neighborhoods, the Homeownership Center, United Way, and others.

The additional money from the Treasurer and Prosecutor was made available by the state legislature, led in particular by State Rep. Denise Driehaus, who freed up restrictions on the Delinquent Tax Assessment Collection (DTAC) that allowed it to be used for the critical goal of reducing foreclosures.

Hamilton County homeowners who wish to use the program may call 2-1-1 or visit this link for more information:

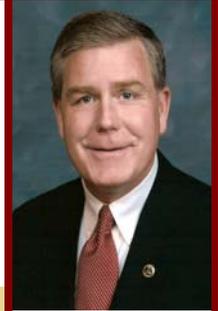
<http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/workingFamilies/foreclosure/>

In just three years, the counseling agencies together have saved 2,175 homes and families from



Patrick's Perspective

County Commission Approves Aggressive 2010 Performance Dashboard and Work Plan



**Patrick
Thompson,
Hamilton County
Administrator**

The Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) recently approved a 2010 Performance Dashboard and Work Plan that will guide the County's work for this year.

The Performance Dashboard and Work Plan provide a good summary of expectations and goals. The expectations and goals are aggressive, and I look forward to working closely with other Hamilton County leaders to achieve them.

2010 Performance Dashboard

The Performance Dashboard cites four high-level categories in which results will be measured and analyzed. They are:

- Economic Development
- Protecting At Risk Populations
- Financial Management
- Criminal Justice/Public Safety.

These categories reflect the BOCC's highest priorities in 2010. You can see the entire Performance Dashboard on p. 3 of this newsletter.

2010 Management Work Plan

The Management Work Plan focuses on five main categories. It's a task-oriented document that lists specific actions that county leaders must take throughout 2010.

The Management Work Plan categories include:

- Economic Development
- Government Reform
- Quality of Life
- Financial Stewardship
- Other

Items in the Management Work Plan are diverse and involve working closely with many entities, both within Hamilton County government and external organizations. For example, a few of the Work Plan items are:

- Continue Kahn's Site Redevelopment;
- Work with State Delegation to Revise Newspaper Advertising Requirements;
- Fully Implement Energy Efficiency Grant;
- Develop Multi-year Strategy to Increase the General Fund Reserve;
- Complete Space Utilization Review.

To see the entire 2010 Management Work Plan, please visit this link:

<http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/hc/workplan.asp>

Accountability and Transparency

This is the third year that the BOCC has developed a Performance Dashboard and Management Work Plan. I am pleased with both the accountability and transparency that these documents provide.

The documents guide us in being accountable for progress on the County's highest priorities. Throughout the year, we will keep the BOCC posted on progress. At the year's end, we'll create a final report that summarizes the achievements related to the Performance Dashboard and Work Plan. You can see 2009's year end results at this link:

<http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/hc/workplan.asp>

The documents and the progress reports also provide great transparency. Because the documents are public and progress reports related to the documents are made during public meetings, anyone who is interested can keep tabs on our progress.

Hamilton County leaders are committed to effectively tackling the challenges that are reflected in the Performance Dashboard and the Management Work Plan. I encourage you to follow along throughout the year to see how we are doing!



Hamilton County, Ohio 2010 Performance Dashboard



- Investing in Economic Development
- Protecting At Risk Populations
- Strong Financial Management
- Enhancing Criminal Justice / Public Safety

1.	<i>“Long-term, the only way we’re going to solve our budget problem is through strategic economic and job growth, which will also lead to an increase in County revenues.”</i>
a.	Facilitate business investment in excess of \$50 million.
b.	Create 1,000 new jobs through demonstrable County activity.
2.	<i>“Unprecedented funding challenges have forced the Department of Job and Family Services to create new ways of meeting mandates in all programs, including child welfare, where it is experiencing some of the more complex and severe abuse cases in its history. Complex cases result in long and costly foster care stays, leaving children in limbo, without a permanent resolution. The challenge for both the fiscal health of the agency and the safety and permanency of the children is to reduce the county’s abuse rate and the number of children in foster care.”</i>
a.	Reduce the number of older youth (ages 15 to 18) in JFS custody by 12% through positive, permanent outcomes, such as adoption or reunification with safe, stable families. Currently, 77 children in custody fall in this age range. Last year, the number of older children in custody was reduced by 6.6%
b.	Reduce by 10% the percentage of children who die from substantiated abuse by the mother’s partner, a non-biological parent of the child. The rate of such abuse currently stands at 35%– six of 17 abuse deaths in the past five years – which is 20% above the national average and 7% above the state average.
3.	<i>“The County has managed through several difficult budget processes during this prolonged recession. To ensure the County emerges in a strong financial position, significant capital projects must remain on schedule and within budget and regular budget monitoring should continue.”</i>
a.	Complete Phase I public improvements for the Banks Riverfront Redevelopment project under budget and on schedule.
b.	Maintain schedule compliance and budget for the Wet Weather Program within the Metropolitan Sewer District.
c.	Maintain 2010 general fund expenditures within 0.5% of originally appropriated funding level.
d.	Resolve Special Audit within the Job and Family Services Department
4.	<i>“The efforts of the Criminal Justice Commission have resulted in a number of program initiatives to manage a limited amount of jail space. After three years of innovations and reform, the criminal justice system would benefit from a comprehensive listing of options and an updated projection on detention facility needs.”</i>
a.	Catalogue and develop schematic diagram of current jail division and jail space management programs
b.	Develop updated detention facility needs projection



Commission President David Pepper Delivers State of the County Address: Emphasizes Fiscal Responsibility, Job Creation, and Infrastructure



Hamilton County Commission President David Pepper delivers the 2010 State of the County Address.

On February 18, Hamilton County Commissioner David Pepper gave his second State of the County address. Hosted by the Cincinnati Rotary Club, Pepper discussed the challenges Hamilton County faced in 2009 and how the County met those difficulties head on.

Through fiscally responsible decisions, the County turned the challenges of 2009 into opportunities for 2010 by dramatically reducing spending, investing millions in infrastructure and economic

development, promoting job creation and retention, and meeting the needs of the County's working families.

"We've been fiscally responsible by reducing spending by historic amounts, we've fought for jobs and working families, and made important investments for the long term," Pepper summarized. "We pulled through a tough year, and built a solid foundation for the future."

With both Republican and Democratic officials in attendance, Pepper called on

County leaders to continue to work in the bipartisan fashion they have followed in recent years, as opposed to the highly partisan debates in Washington and Columbus.

"Citizens expect that we work together to solve the problems before us, and that's what we've been doing," Pepper said.

Key points of the speech are summed up on p. 5. To read the entire text of Pepper's speech, please visit this link:

http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/hc/hc_pdfs/2010StateOfTheCountySpeech.pdf

Census Jobs are Available Locally!

The 2010 Census has approximately 400 local jobs still available, and residents are encouraged to apply. To learn more, please visit this link: <http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/> or call 1-866-861-2010.



Key Points from Commissioner Pepper's 2010 State of the County Address

Fiscal Responsibility

Faced with declining revenue and an uncertain economic climate, the County made difficult decisions regarding its priorities and spending. Elected officials across the County found ways to do more with less, found innovative and creative solutions and restricted spending to only mission essential items:

- Hamilton County accomplished a historic reduction in the size of County government, reducing its budget by \$60 million (22%) in two years and lowering the level of spending equal to the amount spent in 1998;
- Hamilton County received praise from Moody's, which cited the County as "well managed," and complimented the County's "willingness to make difficult budgetary decisions to reduce expenditures;"
- The County continues to pursue shared services and other reforms to County government.

Job Creation

Throughout 2009, Hamilton County aggressively pushed for job growth and retention and business development. The results of those investments paid off, paving the way for a long-term recovery.

- During 2009, 51 economic developments took place in Hamilton County, creating and retaining more than 13,000 jobs and generating \$309 million in investments;
- The County/City SuperJobs center continues to be a leader in the state, linking 2,200 people to jobs, and providing job training to 660 youth in our community.

Infrastructure

Realizing that a robust economy will only happen if there is a strong infrastructure on which to build it, the County devoted much of 2009 to developing a strong foundation of revitalized communities to bring in growth and industry back to Hamilton County.

- During 2009, invested \$8 million in federal funds to tear down blight and rehabilitate housing in 16 neighborhoods from Cheviot, to Woodlawn, to Colerain Township;
- Lincoln Heights, Evanston and Avondale, and 4 other communities, will share \$24M to revitalize some of their most distressed properties beginning in 2010;
- The County is working to revitalize business districts and brownfields in Blue Ash, Lockland, Harrison and others, and has added attractive tax abatements to spur developments in Madeira, Columbia Township and others;
- During 2009, the County invested millions to upgrade its underlying infrastructure, like sewers, roads and transportation;
- By actively working with community partners to fight foreclosures, the County's free foreclosure counseling has now saved 2,175 homes from foreclosure, averting \$50 million in lost property values.

Public Safety

Public safety continues to remain Hamilton County's top budgetary priority, as it accounts for 70% of the total County budget. Despite deep budget cuts, Hamilton County was able to keep core public safety services intact during 2009, while pursuing new opportunities to increase efficiencies, save tax payer dollars, and increase overall safety. Among other reforms:

- Through savings and stimulus, Hamilton County rehired 35 Sheriff's deputies, eliminated the need for coroner shutdown days, and added electronic monitoring units;
- A new felony level mental health court is now serving and treating offenders with severe mental illness;
- Ohio has identified Hamilton County as the state's demonstration site for addressing criminal justice issues specifically related to veterans.



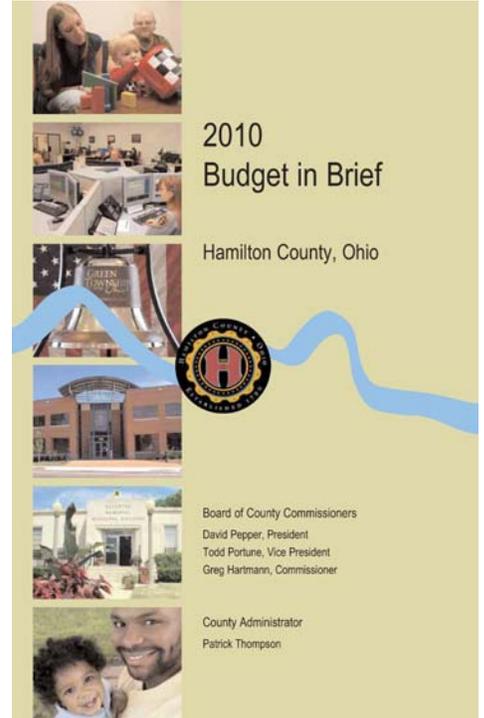
Hamilton County 2010 Budget in Brief Provides Overview of County's Budget

If you'd like to read a clear, concise description of the County's 2010 budget, please visit this link:

<http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/administrator/bsi/budget/BIB10WEB.pdf>

Copies of the Budget in Brief are available for distribution to community groups.

To request copies, please contact John Bruggen:
513-946-4316
John.bruggen@hamilton-co.org



County Commissioners Select Government Reform Task Force Members

Hamilton County Commissioners are moving forward with a plan to convene a community task force to look at alternative forms of operating Hamilton County government.

In September 2009, the Commissioners unanimously approved Commissioner Todd Portune's motion to establish the task force. In early February, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) adopted a resolution establishing the task force and began accepting applications from citizens willing to serve. The BOCC received over 60 applications, and on February 22, they announced that 15 citizens were selected.

The task force shall make recommendations about a proposed and reformed Hamilton County Governmental structure in writing on or before May 31, 2010.

Citizens selected to serve on the task force include:

- David Krings
- Connie Hinitz
- Margaret Cook
- Nikki Johnson
- Elizabeth Robinson
- Rosemarie Sturgill
- Kathleen Schmidt
- Marilyn DeCourcy
- Cathy Doyle
- Mark Quarry
- Kevin Flynn
- David Singleton
- Jim O'Reilly
- Stephen Taylor
- Stephen Wessels



Commissioners Implement Transportation Policy Plan

On Wednesday, March 3, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) passed a resolution approving the Hamilton County Transportation Policy Plan (HCTPP). The HCTPP, initiated by Commissioner Todd Portune, will guide Hamilton County in coordinating with local jurisdictions when identifying opportunities and making decisions regarding transportation for the region.

Developing the HCTPP was a collaborative effort. A broad array of transportation stakeholders served on a Transportation Policy Plan Task Force, which was guided by the county's Regional Planning division. They met numerous times of the course of a year and reached unanimous agreement on every word of the HCTPP.

The HCTPP's vision emphasizes the importance of various entities within the region working together to make significant investment in design, engineering, and construction of public infrastructure.

"This plan identifies a process to allow the County to work with 49 jurisdictions to be a more informed player as we advance transportation issues," said Portune. Portune stressed that the County will advance transportation in ways that are compatible with jurisdictions, so the county can be more effective in representing the interests of the region. The adopted plan encompasses issues related not just to roads and bridges, but also involving river and rail transport.

Commissioner Greg Hartmann supported the HCTPP, saying, "We need a stronger voice to represent all of the different jurisdictions in

Hamilton County as these important decisions are made for the region."

"We have been coordinating with local jurisdictions for a number of years, said Hamilton County Engineer William Brayshaw. "It's important to continue that coordination and cooperation."

Commissioner Portune emphasized the importance of the plan, saying transportation opportunities in the near future will be important to the region. "2014 will be a critically important year for transportation projects," said Portune. "We have a real opportunity to enhance the infrastructure by 2014 for bulk transport along the river. 2014 will

be a critical year for explosion into freight, and we can position this region to become a major shipping point."

To read the HCTPP, please visit this link:

http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/hc/hc_pdfs/transPolicyPlan.pdf



Transportation Policy Plan's Stated Goals

- Promote a multi-modal transportation system to be operated and maintained as one integrated network for the movement of and connection with people, jobs, goods and services.
- Promote a transportation system that is sensitive to community character, socio-cultural effects and environmental resources.
- Promote a transportation system that sustains economic growth and development.
- Promote a transportation system that is maintained, optimized, and expanded using the best available technologies and innovations.
- Promote a financially sustainable transportation system.
- Promote a transportation system that is locally and regionally coordinated and based on effective transportation, land use, and smart growth planning.
- Promote the efficient and effective use of Hamilton County freight transportation assets — including roadway, railroad, river, and air — to build a more productive and sustainable freight network.



Hamilton County Provides Easy Access to Geographic Information System (GIS) Maps

Hamilton County and the City of Cincinnati have released a new interactive mapping website that, for the first time, provides detailed land base and zoning information to the public in a highly effective and user friendly manner.

This site was designed to assist current and potential residents and property owners in making decisions that will add to the vitality of the Cincinnati area and promote economic development throughout Hamilton County. The website is a product of a joint endeavor between the City and County known as the Cincinnati Area Geographic Information System (CAGIS).

The delivery of map-based information via the internet provides a self serve feature to the public and empowers individual property owners, community activists, neighborhood leaders, and developers with better decision making tools at their fingertips. Potential land developers and business investors can benefit from the readily accessible map-based information pertaining to zoning, property and development data, land use, and topography. Mapping and reporting tools on this site make it possible for the public to explore communities and properties within the county, investigate the zoning restrictions and requirements for individual parcels, and track changes in land use over time through aerial photographs.

The online feature is popular. In just two months, the site has been visited by about 6,000 unique visitors. Although 95% of the users are from the tri-state area, the site has been viewed by people from 40 US states and 13 different countries.

GIS Maps Online

Developed by CAGIS



"The level of detail, accuracy, and currency of the data for the Hamilton County area enables us to offer a unique product, and one unlike any other online mapping services" explains Interim CAGIS Administrator Missy Gatterdam.

Making GIS data available online has many benefits. "In addition to supporting economic development initiatives, the site's self serve feature improves customer service and can drastically reduce staff time in areas where calls for GIS data are frequent," says Gatterdam.

Online access to GIS data can also aid in coordination with other government entities. "We encourage cities and townships to link to this site to showcase their communities and share useful information," says Shaoli Huang of CAGIS. To access CAGIS Online, please visit this link:

<http://cagisonline.hamilton-co.org/cagisonline/index.html>



Hamilton County Job and Family Services Makes Agency More Accessible to Public

The Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) has faced the perfect storm over the past two years: massive cuts in funding and in staff levels, combined with a record level of citizens needing services. JFS is responding to these challenges by finding creative ways to serve customers.

“When I accepted the position of director at JFS nearly three years ago, one of my goals was to make our agency more accessible to the public,” says JFS Director Moira Weir. “Little did I know how challenging that goal would be to achieve.”

More than 50,000 people visit the JFS lobby for service each month, and over 2,000 phone calls come in daily to the agency’s main phone number. The Family and Adult Assistance Section has become the busiest part of JFS’ business, with the economy forcing many people to seek public food assistance, cash assistance and health care insurance.

JFS is doing what it takes to make access to the agency as painless as possible for customers. Examples of initiatives underway to make it easier for customers to access JFS include:

- Stationing workers in hospitals to help with Medicaid applications;
- Partnering with the public library system to allow verification documents to be faxed from branches throughout the county, enabling clients to avoid a trip downtown;
- Improving web offerings, so citizens can quickly and conveniently get what they need using the web, instead of calling or visiting the agency;
- Using social media for information sharing, including a Director’s Blog to keep people informed of what is happening at JFS;
- Creating a scheduling system that allows JFS employees to see consumers in a more efficient manner.



More than 50,000 people visit the A&D Building for JFS services each month. JFS leaders are striving to make accessing services more convenient for customers.

- Offering private, live chats to child support customers, so they can get answers to questions without calling and waiting on hold. JFS is expanding live chats to include the Family and Adult Assistance section, too.

Each of these initiatives has called for using existing resources innovatively to serve customers.

“JFS is accessible, but, too often, not in a timely manner,” Weir acknowledges. “But I continue to encourage JFS staff to develop creative solutions to help our customers. I am proud to say they continue to respond to the challenge.”

For more detailed information about JFS’ efforts to enhance customer accessibility, please see the HCJFS Update publication at this link:

http://www.hcifs.hamilton-co.org/Update_Newsletter/UpdateHome.htm



Environmental Services Receives the Alliance for Chemical Safety's 2009 Risk Communication Excellence Award

On January 13, 2010, the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services (HCDOES) was presented with the *2009 Risk Communication Excellence Award* for Hamilton County's first Air Toxics Report from the Alliance for Chemical Safety.

The Air Toxics Report, published in May of 2009, helps Hamilton County residents understand what chemicals are in the air and what that information means to public health. The report details the sources of toxic air pollutants in Hamilton County and how these toxics are monitored. The report then explains the health risks with an explanation of toxicology and risk assessment.

By preparing this report, HCDOES strives to promote public understanding of chemical exposures and the risk associated with them. This information is relevant to the daily lives of the residents of Hamilton County and is consistent with the mission of HCDOES to achieve and maintain healthy air quality for Southwest Ohio.

The Air Toxics Report was prepared by Toxicology



Pictured from left to right: Deb Leonard, Environmental Quality Management; Ken Edgell, Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services; Keith Mesch, Alliance for Chemical Safety; Patricia Nance, TERA.

Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA) and Environmental Quality Management, Inc. (EQM) on behalf of HCDOES and other partners. To view the report, visit www.hcdoes.org.

Hamilton County Facilities' Energy Initiatives At 800 Broadway Earn Energy Star Award



Along with County Administrator Patrick Thompson and Assistant County Administrator Jeff Aluotto, Director of Facilities Ralph Linne presents the EnergyStar Award to the Board of County Commissioners.

The Hamilton County Department of County Facilities earned the prestigious ENERGY STAR award in 2009 for the 800 Broadway Building. This is the second consecutive year that ENERGY STAR recognized the superior energy performance of 800 Broadway,

identifying this building as one of the most energy efficient buildings in the nation.

Only six government buildings in Ohio earned 2009 ENERGY STAR recognition. Buildings that earn the ENERGY STAR use an average of 40% less energy than typical buildings, and they release 35% less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

"It's impressive that we're one of the six award-winning government buildings in Ohio," said Commission President David Pepper. "It's great to have these kind of results."

800 Broadway's achievements with energy efficiency are the result of several years of both capital and operational improvements initiated by Ralph Linne, Director of Facilities, and Anthony Matre, Assistant Director of Plant Management.



Hamilton County Coroner Helps Families Through Dignity in Death Foundation



Dr. O'dell M. Owens, Hamilton County Coroner

Hamilton County Coroner Dr. Odell M. Owens always seeks innovative ways to help the families that he serves at the Hamilton County Morgue. This concern for the people he serves led Dr. Owens to become involved with the Dignity in Death Foundation (DIDF).

Owens realized that the deceased were spending longer periods of time at the morgue while their families dealt with the financial challenge of raising funds to cover funeral expenses. DIDF is a non-profit organization that was established to provide financial assistance to grieving families that are unable to afford a decent burial for a loved one.

DIDF helps these hurting families by making direct payments to the service providers. Families that contact DIDF are interviewed to determine eligibility to receive financial assistance. Once a family is qualified to receive benefits, DIDF acts as an intermediary to allow the family to focus on saying goodbye and providing emotional support to one another.

Owens says that while financial assistance from the group is limited to \$250, the foundation works like a clearing house. DIDF works with funeral homes on

behalf of the family to put together a plan that will allow the friends and family an opportunity to say good-bye to the loved one in a respectful and dignified manner.

"One of the most significant events a family will face is the death of a loved one. How a community responds to help in that particular time of need is one way to evaluate that community," says Owens. "I am hopeful that Dignity in Death will help raise public awareness about the need. I'm certain that the Cincinnati area will respond in a positive way."

If you would like to help or become a sponsor, you can attend an upcoming DIDF fundraiser.

Saturday, March 13th
at Brentwood Bowl,
9176 Winton Road.
8 p.m.— Midnight

The cost is \$20 per person, which includes shoes and bowling.

For more information visit
www.dignityindeathfoundation.com
or call 513-442-7664.



Hamilton County Communications Center Goes Above and Beyond to Help a Soldier And Shares Lessons Learned

Typically, when employees of the Hamilton County Communications Center answer 9-1-1 calls, they help people who have an emergency situation locally. Communications Center employees provide direction while dispatching local police, fire, and EMTs to help. But when a call required help beyond the local area, Supervisor Tom Rapp rose to the challenge.

The 9-1-1 caller was concerned for the immediate safety of a soldier serving in the US Army in Saudi Arabia. The caller had been on the phone with the soldier, when the soldier became extremely distraught about a family issue. When her call with the soldier was abruptly disconnected and the caller could no longer reach the soldier, she was worried for his safety, based on the soldier's reaction to the situation. Unable to reach the soldier, she called 9-1-1 to see if anyone could help.

Rapp gathered as much information as he could about the soldier's location and contact information, but it was not enough. Rapp was not able to reach the soldier or anyone near the soldier with the information provided.



**Tom Rapp, Communications
Center Supervisor**

So Rapp thought of some innovative ways to reach the soldier. He contacted entities such as the soldier's local base, various military police, the Secret Service, operators at the soldier's base in Saudi Arabia, military.com, and the Kentucky National Guard. Thanks to Rapp's persistence, he reached military police on the soldier's base. They took control of the situation and were able to notify Rapp that they had reached the soldier. The soldier was safe.

Rapp believes this situation was a valuable learning tool for the Hamilton County Communications Center. He shared what they learned with a publication called Public Safety Communications, the official magazine of APCO International,

so public safety officials worldwide could learn from the experience. It's featured in the February 2010 edition of Public Safety Communications.

Rapp explains that he learned:

- The importance of information for communications centers. Many of the contact numbers for official entities that Rapp tried when attempting to ensure the soldier's safety were dead ends. They led to voice mail or disconnected lines. Rapp says, "Agencies should take the time to review their 24-hour contact information to ensure its accuracy."
- To remember that alternative forms of information may be available, including the internet.
- To be thorough and make sure all leads are exhausted before giving up when assisting with a situation.

"The goal was to make sure this soldier was safe. Stopping before I had done so would have been very difficult," says Rapp.



2010 Yardwaste Drop-Off Sites Opening in March

The Hamilton County Yardwaste Drop-Off Sites will open for the year on March 27, 2010. As always, this service is free to Hamilton County residents. Landscapers and commercial establishments are not eligible to participate in this program.

Locations:

East (Anderson Township)

Bzak Landscaping
3295 Turpin Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45244
Mondays—Fridays: 7:30 a.m.—5 p.m.
Saturdays and Sundays: 11:30 a.m.—5 p.m.

West (Green Township)

Kuliga Park
6717 Bridgetown Road, Cincinnati, OH 45248
Saturdays and Sundays: 11:30 a.m.—5 p.m.

North (Colerain Township)

Rumpke Sanitary Landfill
3800 Struble Road, Cincinnati, OH 45251
Saturdays and Sundays: 11:30 a.m.—5 p.m.



Yardwaste Drop-Off Guidelines:

- Landscapers and commercial establishments are not eligible to participate in this program.
- No large trailers or trucks larger than pickups.
- Cut brush and tree branches into lengths of 4 feet or less — bundles must not be heavier than 50 pounds.
- Bring yardwaste to the locations in containers or bags – brown paper bags preferred.
- Containers and plastic bags will be returned.
- No pallets, boards, nails, fence, or wire accepted.
- No bricks, stones or soil accepted.
- All children must stay inside vehicles.
- Hamilton County residents only.

For more information, call the Yardwaste Hotline at 946-7755 or visit www.hamiltoncountyclecyles.org.

Some residents prefer composting at home over toting yardwaste to one of the sites. If you're interested in composting, the *Yardwaste at Home Handbook* can help. This handy tool details steps that can make composting easy. Information ranges from composting to organic gardening. Another helpful resource is the Department of Environmental Services' new composting blog. It features tips and troubleshooting advice about composting.

To view the blog or download a free copy of the *Yardwaste at Home Handbook*, please visit www.hamiltoncountyclecyles.org.



Citizens and Hamilton County Employees Invited to Submit Employee of the Year Award Nominations



The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) invites and encourages Hamilton County employees and citizens to participate in the annual Employee of the Year Awards Program.

This program provides the opportunity for employees and citizens to nominate any Hamilton County employee who has excelled in his or her service to the people of Hamilton County. It's a great way to formally recognize an employee's outstanding work. Nominations will be accepted through Friday, March 26, 2010.

Nominations are accepted for awards in seven categories. The nomination forms describe the criteria for each

category. To learn more, you can read about last year's winners for each category at this link:

<http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/hr/EmployeeOfYear/2009/EmpYear2009Winners.asp>

Award winners will be recognized at the BOCC meeting on April 28 and at the

National Public Service Recognition Week celebration on May 5.

Please consider nominating an employee! You can find nomination forms at this link:

<http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/hr/EmployeeOfYear/EmpYear2010Home.asp>

Employee of the Year Award Categories:

- Leadership
- Professional Achievement
- Innovation
- Customer Service Excellence
- Administrative/Clerical Support
- Extra Mile
- County Hero



Caring Families are Needed!



Kamyia

August 2001

This energetic and active little girl loves to get other people's attention! Kamyia has a terrific smile, an infectious laugh and beautiful eyes and just wants to be part of a family that loves her.

Kamyia is eager and loves her classes at school, especially art class. After school this sweet child likes to play outside and ride her big wheel. When Kamyia is indoors she enjoys her blocks, cars and watching Dora the Explorer and SpongeBob cartoons. She is a

meat and potatoes girl. She likes potatoes, no matter how they're prepared, and snacks like cookies, pudding, and pretzels.

Kamyia would mesh well with a calm, structure-oriented family who will be patient and ready to help guide her through her routine.

**For information on becoming a foster or adoptive parent
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: www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov. If you have questions, suggestions, or article submissions, please contact Laura Maus.

Laura Maus: 513-946-4708
Laura.maus@hamilton-co.org