



Hello Hamilton County

April 2010

E-News for Hamilton County citizens and employees

Quote of the month:

"You must play boldly to win."

~Arnold Palmer

Hamilton County Selected to Pilot Veterans' Diversion and Trauma Recovery Program



In March, the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) announced that Hamilton County has been selected to pilot a Project VETS Intervention Program for the State of Ohio.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA) organization awarded grants to six states, including Ohio, for the purpose of supporting the expansion of jail diversion programs for people with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and

other trauma-related disorders.

A priority for this program is to provide needed services to veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. The states receiving grants must implement a diversion program in a pilot community and expand successful programs to other communities in the state.

"We're seeing far too many veterans go through our jails," said County Commissioner David Pepper. "Getting them the help they need is the right thing to do and the smart thing to do."

Hamilton County will receive \$394,000 in funding for the first year of the pilot. It's anticipated that \$1.97 million in funding will be provided to Hamilton County over a five year period for the VETS Intervention Program.

"When you target these services to veterans, it really works in amazing ways," said Commissioner Greg Hartmann. "Getting these services to veterans is money well spent. It can really make a difference in their lives."

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For the first two years, Hamilton County will be the only site in Ohio to conduct the pilot. During years 3—5, it's expected that the program will be rolled out to more pilot sites in Ohio.

Ohio selected Hamilton County to pilot the program partially because Hamilton County had recently discussed piloting a Veteran's Court and had numerous services already occurring within its jail system.

The other pilot sites will benefit from Hamilton County's strategic plan and analysis of what works well and what doesn't work well during the first two years.

"We are very excited to participate," said Director of the Hamilton County Department of Pretrial and Community Transition Services Wendy Niehaus. "The funding can take our current projects and

interventions to a whole new level that honors and supports the veterans who are suffering from mental illness, substance abuse and/or PTSD."

Hamilton County's program will involve a three pronged approach to assisting veterans who suffer from PTSD or other trauma related disorders and who become involved with the criminal justice system. The approach will include:

- Prevention;
- Criminal justice intervention and diversion;
- Long term recovery and support.

There will be an emphasis on providing services that include support and intervention for spouses, children, and other involved loved ones of the veteran.

It's planned that the program will serve approximately 50 Hamilton

County veterans in the first year and about 75 Hamilton County veterans annually during the next four years.

Niehaus says the county is currently working with the State on strategic planning for the program.

A number of Hamilton County organizations will be involved with the VETS intervention program, including Hamilton County Municipal Court, Pre-Trial Services, Adult Probation, and the Veteran's Service Commission. These organizations will collaborate with a variety of local service providers as part of this initiative.

"It's a tremendous honor and responsibility to pilot this for the state," said Commissioner Todd Portune. "It's a positive step that will produce results that can be replicated throughout the state and the nation."

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



The Hamilton County Surplus Auction is Brought to You by the Letter F Today.

- Looking for a Forklift?
- A Ford Taurus?
- A Funnel Ball Game?



Look no further than the Surplus Auction. You can find it all there!



Plus, you can find additional items that represent many other letters of the alphabet, including vehicles, books, computer equipment, and office furniture. Anyone can place bids online to purchase items used by Hamilton County and other municipalities. There is always a variety, and you can get great deals!

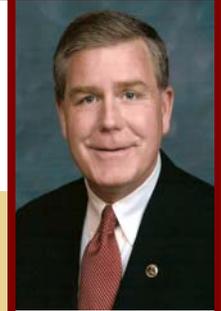
Visit the county's online public auction to see what kind of bargains you can find!

www.hamiltoncountyohioauction.com



Patrick's Perspective

Government Reform Task Force's Work: Inclusive, Transparent and Important!



**Patrick Thompson,
Hamilton County
Administrator**

The Hamilton County Government Reform Task Force (GRTF) held its first two meetings in March and is going strong out of the gate. The Board of County Commissioners and County Administration are committed to making this group's work a success. I encourage you to follow the Task Force's progress!

The GRTF is charged with determining whether alternative forms of county government make more sense for Hamilton County. The GRTF is striving to report recommendations to the BOCC by May 31. If the GRTF recommends changes, there will be time for the BOCC to convene public hearings and to determine whether to advance the recommendations to the November 2010 ballot.

Inclusive

The elected officials and appointing authorities have a place at the table. The Task Force members want to hear from them. The GRTF will be contacting various appointing authorities to request information and to invite their thoughts and ideas.

Their involvement will help the GRTF make informed recommendations that reflect an understanding of where elected officials and appointing authorities stand on the issue of government reform and county government structure.

Transparent

I encourage interested people to follow the GRTF's progress! You can find out what's happening by visiting the GRTF's page on the County's website. You can access

the information at this link:

http://www.hamiltoncountyoio.gov/hc/bocc_grtf.asp

There, you can:

- See who is serving on the Task Force;
- See dates of the next meeting;
- Listen to recordings of the meetings;
- View the task force's sourcebook;
- Read reports.

The GRTF's meetings are open to the public, and interested citizens are welcome to attend, ask questions, and be heard.

Important!

Some have asked why the BOCC has convened this Task Force. Any good organization will periodically examine itself and ask questions about how it operates. Examining organizational structure to find efficiencies, enhance effectiveness, and reflect current needs is an essential practice for strong organizations. For a government organization, it makes good sense to open the process up to a group of interested citizens.

We are not alone in this endeavor. Counties all across the country are reviewing how they are organized. Hamilton County is no different. Not only is it good business, but as guardians of taxpayers' dollars, we would be negligent if we didn't take a close look at how we can operate most efficiently and effectively for the citizens of Hamilton County.

The GRTF may recommend a vastly different organizational structure, they may recommend that it stay exactly the same, or they may recommend something in

between. There are no preconceived notions or hidden agendas about the Task Force's recommendations.

It's critical that the GRTF has the time, resources, and information needed to do a good job on this project. County Administration is supporting the Task Force by providing needed information and resources. While initial deadlines have been suggested so the GRTF's recommendations are made in time for the November ballot—and the task force is working towards this goal—it's important to do a thorough job. The Commission may allow for additional time if absolutely necessary.

The GRTF has devoted a great deal of time already to the task! The Task Force first met on March 16 and will have met twice again by April 1. They selected Margaret Cook and Jim O'Reilly to serve as Co-Chairs. They have been researching diligently and asking good questions.

I want to thank everybody involved with the GRTF. Citizens serving on the GRTF, staff members supporting this important work, and the elected officials and appointing authorities all have an opportunity that doesn't come around too often. Their combined efforts will enable us to take a fresh look at how Hamilton County does business and how we can best serve our citizens.



Hamilton County Government Reform Task Force's Work is Underway



All 15 of the Government Reform Task Force members attended the group's first meeting on March 16.



County Administrator Patrick Thompson (left) and County Commissioner Todd Portune (right) address the Government Reform Task Force on March 16.

The Hamilton County Government Reform Task Force (GRTF) held its first working session on Tuesday, March 16. The GRTF is made up of a diverse group of citizens who are committed to analyzing the county's structure and making recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners about Hamilton County's structure.

"We have a historic opportunity to re-examine our 1851 structure of 11 elected officials, amid a fiscal crisis of historic proportions, said Task Force Co-Chair Jim O'Reilly.

"What worked in 1851 may not be working today," said O'Reilly. "Most of our county employees do terrific work. They as insiders know best where our task force can recommend changes to streamline the system, reduce its costs, and free them to creatively improve our county structure. If you owned this billion dollar enterprise, how would you run it? Indeed, all of us own it,

and all of us have a stake in making it run better at lower costs."

Co-Chair Margaret Cook explained, "The Hamilton County Government Reform Task force is an incredible opportunity to merge insider knowledge and perspective with true outsiders' fresh eyes. Our county government has grown, added tasks and responsibilities in response to perceived immediate needs. The current economic and political environments present the most favorable circumstance to examine the role of government, its impact on the taxpayers and citizens and how we can partner needed government functions with the majority's desire for smaller, more responsible government."

"As an ordinary citizen working with other citizens I am privileged and humbled to have this opportunity and look forward to the robust exchange of opinion as we work toward a future we can all take part in," said Cook.

"Please check our county web page and email your suggestions to joreilly@fuse.net. Thanks," said O'Reilly.

You can view the GRTF's webpage at this link: http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/hc/bocc_grtf.asp



Hamilton County Receives Grant to Help Job and Family Services and Juvenile Court Serve Crossover Youth

Hamilton County has been selected as one of 11 communities across the nation to participate in a nationally-recognized program to address the unique issues presented by youth who are known to both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. These youth are known as "crossover youth."



The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University and Casey Family Programs has created a Crossover Youth Practice Model Initiative aimed at reforming services to crossover youth. Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services (HCJFS) and Juvenile Court were chosen to implement the model based on the "clear commitment demonstrated to improving outcomes for crossover youth."

"We are honored to be chosen from the many across the nation who applied," HCJFS Director Moira Weir said. "It will be nice to see what is working in other parts of the country and to hear from the consultants about how it can be adapted to Hamilton County."

The Center's practice model describes specific practices that need to be in place within a jurisdiction in order to reduce the number of youth who crossover between the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, the number of youth entering and re-entering care, and the length that youth stay in out-of-home care. The practice model provides a template for how counties can immediately enhance how they serve crossover youth and rapidly impact outcomes.

In January, when Hamilton County applied for the program, 1,541 children were in HCJFS custody or were under court-ordered supervision. Of those children, 25 percent – 383 – are considered crossover youth who have at least one court judgment on a delinquency or

unruly offense.

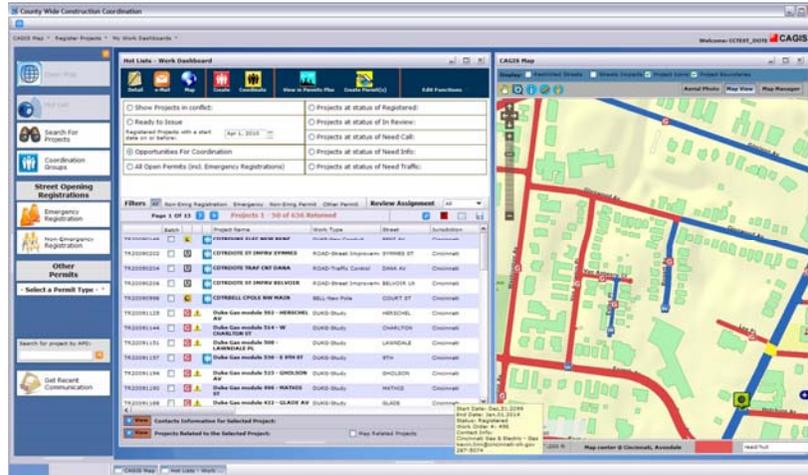
While implementing the model will be new for HCJFS and Juvenile Court, collaborating to effectively serve crossover youth is not. Practices already in place include:

- HCJFS dedicates a social worker who serves as a liaison to the court and attends all initial delinquency plea hearings at the detention facility for children who are in HCJFS custody or under HCJFS supervision.
- Juvenile Court grants JFS administrators access to the court's management information system to facilitate improved coordination and communication on crossover cases.
- Juvenile Court conducts a daily assessment of the youth housed in the detention facility, and a multi-disciplinary committee convenes weekly in an effort to secure alternative placements for youth in detention. HCJFS participates in this weekly review and implements strategies to avoid unnecessary stays for youth in agency custody.
- Both Juvenile Court and HCJFS contract with social service agencies that offer community-based services for crossover youth.

"I appreciate the Center's recognition of our solid foundation in working with crossover youth," said Weir. "We are constantly searching for better ways to help the children of Hamilton County, and this new model will help us create a comprehensive system that takes the delivery of services to a whole new level."



Construction Coordination Goes High Tech in Hamilton County



Construction leaders can look at a screen like this to learn about opportunities for collaboration with other construction projects occurring in the area.

Have you ever noticed that a road near your home was repaved one month and then torn up the next so work could be done? When situations like that occur, people (understandably) question why the work couldn't have been better coordinated to avoid wasting time and resources. Six local organizations have worked together to make that better coordination a reality!

Hamilton County residents will benefit from a major improvement in the coordination of public construction activities, thanks to a new software system released for use on March 31. The software system enables five entities to coordinate their construction activities through a common software system.

With this new system, when major construction is occurring,

the various entities involved will be able to see a map display of planned projects as well as scheduling information. In addition, they will receive automated notifications of coordination opportunities or potential conflicts that need attention.

This approach, "represents a substantial evolution in multi-agency collaboration efforts by leveraging technology to enable coordination," said Raj Chandur of CAGIS.

Citizens will benefit in multiple ways from the use of this new construction coordination system. "A synchronized approach to non-emergency construction reduces instances of repetitive work in the same area, which is an understandable source of frustration to area residents,"

says Assistant County Administrator Jeff Aluotto. "The ability for these agencies to engage in cost sharing opportunities also helps to keep costs down for the people who support these projects through taxes or service fees."

The Cincinnati Area Global Information System (CAGIS) developed the web based system. CAGIS is a consortium, and the consortium members who will use the new software system include:

- The Hamilton County Engineer's Office;
- The City of Cincinnati's Department of Transportation and Engineering;
- Duke Energy;
- The Greater Cincinnati Water Works;
- The Metropolitan Sewer District.



Hamilton County Public Health Awarded \$6.7 Million Grant as Part of Recovery Act Prevention and Wellness Initiative *Communities Putting Prevention to Work*

In March, Hamilton County Public Health was awarded a grant of \$6.7 million for a county-wide obesity prevention program.

This grant award is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Communities Putting Prevention to Work initiative to support public health efforts to reduce obesity, increase physical activity, improve nutrition, and decrease smoking—four critical actions for combating chronic diseases and promoting health.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funded the \$372.8 million which was awarded to 44 communities. These communities are receiving awards to implement policy, systems and environmental change strategies over the next two years as one of several initiatives of HHS Communities Putting Prevention to Work.

"Prevention is the key in order to change health behaviors for improving physical activity and healthy eating," said Tim Ingram, Health Commissioner. "Expanding community based prevention efforts will provide sustainable, lasting change for the residents of Hamilton County."

The competitive funding awards to cities, towns, and tribes across the

country will allow communities to support healthy choices among their residents through a variety of methods including increasing the availability of healthy foods and beverages, improving access to safe places for physical activity, discouraging tobacco use, and encouraging smoke-free environments.

Specifically, the work that Hamilton County Public Health and its partners will be doing includes school-based vending policies, social marketing campaign, community garden development, access to safe spaces for physical activity through school-to-community shared use agreements, policies to support 30 minutes of physical activity in after-school programs, expanding the use of existing subsidies for community recreation and expanding infrastructure for faith-based health ministries to provide social support for change.

Hamilton County Public Health held a kickoff event for the big announcement at the Woodlawn Community Center. It was a privilege to have Dr. Thomas Frieden, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as a guest.

Dr. Frieden works diligently to control diseases in the United States and around the world. Hamilton



Health Commissioner
Tim Ingram

County was one of only three communities to be featured in the live national kickoff event hosted by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius in Washington, D.C.

Community members and partner organizations active in the local We Thrive! community wellness initiative were in attendance as Dr. Frieden conversed with Secretary Sebelius live via satellite feed. This public health event supports national, state and local efforts to prevent obesity while improving nutrition and increasing physical activity among the people of Hamilton County.



Hamilton County's Office of Small Business Development Helps Hamilton County and Small Businesses Work Together



The Office of Small Business Development hosts outreach events, such as forums in which vendors can meet Hamilton County purchasing agents. Events like the forums enable purchasing agents to learn about the goods and services the small businesses offer, while helping vendors better understand Hamilton County.

Hamilton County has a resource available for small businesses interested in doing business with the County: The Office of Small Business Development (SBD).

The SBD's mission is to build mutually beneficial relationships between Hamilton County and small businesses by serving as a resource to small businesses interested in providing goods and/or services to the Hamilton County Departments that report to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).

Recognizing that small businesses provide employment and economic growth in Hamilton County, the BOCC founded the small business program in 1998. Ultimately, the intent was to increase the participation of small businesses on county projects. Bernice Walker, Esq., has served as Director of the SBD since July, 2000.

The SBD helped small businesses play a major part in construction of Paul Brown Stadium, the Great

American Ballpark, and a Parking and Infrastructure Improvement Project along the riverfront.

Currently, as part of the Banks Development Project's partnership between the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, the SBD is working to ensure that good faith efforts are made to achieve the goals for inclusion of small and disadvantaged businesses on the

project.

As of January 25, 2010, 32.5% of the Banks Project's construction dollars have been paid to small businesses certified by the City of Cincinnati's Office of Contract Compliance. The small businesses have earned approximately \$4.06 million on the Project.

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Small Business Program Successes

- **Paul Brown Stadium construction had 14% small business participation. Small businesses earned \$50 million.**
- **Great American Ball Park (GABP) construction had 29% small business participation. Small businesses earned \$97.6 million.**
- **Parking and Infrastructure Improvements Project (which involved reconfiguring several streets by the GABP and constructing a garage along the riverfront) had 54% small business participation. Small businesses earned \$26.4 million.**



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In addition to helping small businesses play a role in large construction projects, the SBD makes public presentations, serves as a resource to other county departments and agencies regarding small business matters, and works cooperatively with other organizations that have similar objectives.

The SBD also guides Hamilton County in regularly setting goals for small business participation on County contracts and encourages purchasing agents to consider small businesses as they make their buying decisions.

Another way that the SBD helps small business is by sponsoring informational seminars on "How Hamilton County Conducts Business." These seminars have included presentations from Hamilton County personnel from

Purchasing, Risk Management, Facilities, Public Works, and Administration. Walker anticipates that the SBD will sponsor another one of these seminars this Autumn.

Walker says that for her, the best part of serving as the Director of the Office of Small Business Development is "the many opportunities I have to help others, whether it is through a small business becoming registered with our office, making a referral to another agency, or educating business representatives during an outreach event."

Eligible vendors interested in taking advantage of the SBD's benefits are invited to register with the SBD. There is no cost to vendors, and benefits of registering include:

- Free marketing, as vendors are listed in a database that is posted on the County's website;

- Notification about outreach events sponsored by the SBD;
- Regular e-mail communication regarding issues of interest to small business representatives.

Interested vendors should:

1. Check to see if they are eligible to register with the Hamilton County SBD. For the purposes of Hamilton County's Small Business Program, an eligible small business is a business concern that is independently owned and operated and which meets the detailed definitions or size standards established by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration (SBA). To view the guidelines, [Click here](#).
2. If eligible, complete and submit a [Small Business Profile Registration Form](#).

For more information about Hamilton County's Office of Small Business Development, visit this link: <http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/das/Small%20Business/SBD%20home.asp>

Hamilton County Communications Supervisor Presents Hero's Award

Hamilton County Communication Supervisor Tom Rapp presented Breanna Luca with a 9-1-1 Hero Award in January. Breanna earned the award by staying calm and calling 9-1-1 when her father had a seizure on January 8.

During the presentation at C.O. Harrison Elementary School, Breanna received a certificate of recognition and an "I'm a 9-1-1 hero" t-shirt.

The Hero Award program rewards children 13 years of age or younger who use the 9-1-1 system appropriately. The program also promotes education about proper use of the system. Awards are typically presented in the child's school classroom, so the award-winner's classmates can learn about the proper use of 9-1-1.



The Cincinnati Enquirer/ Elise Marekian

If you're an educator who would like 9-1-1 instruction in your classroom, or if you would like to nominate a child for a Hero's Award, please visit this link: <http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/hccc/911Kids.asp>



Want Great Results With Your Gardens and Ponds? The Hamilton County Soil & Water District Can Help!

The Hamilton County Soil & Water District (SWCD) offers services to help you get outstanding results with your gardens and ponds.

If you want great gardens, plan to attend a soil fertility class and get your soil tested. To learn more about good practices for ponds, attend a Pond Clinic.

For more information, call 772-7645 or visit www.hcswcd.org.



For Optimum Plant Growth, Test Your Soil! Soil Fertility Testing Kits Available Now

If you want your outdoor plants to thrive this year, get your soil tested. Soil testing results tell you exactly how much fertilizer to apply for optimum plant growth. This information can save you money, since in most cases it advises reducing the amount of fertilizer applied.

Plus, you can help the environment by getting your soil tested, if you fertilize according to the test results. A major cause of water quality impairment in Hamilton County's streams is fertilizer run-off. By using only as much fertilizer as needed, you can help reduce run-off.

This year, from February 1 – June 15, 2010, you may purchase a soil test kit from the Soil & Water Conservation District for only \$10. This price includes a \$2 discount for Hamilton County residents. After June 15, 2010, the cost will increase to \$12.00 per kit.

Please call 772-7645 for more information.

A Great Garden Starts With Fertile Soil! Attend a Soil Fertility Class

These classes will provide you with information about how to have your best garden and lawn ever! Holly Utrata-Halcomb, District Administrator of the Hamilton County SWCD, will instruct. She will share information on macro and micronutrients along with instructions about how to test your soil fertility and adjust the levels for maximum growth. Soil fertility test kits will be available for purchase at the workshop.

Classes Available:

Wednesday, April 14, 2010
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Or

Saturday, April 17, 2010
10 a.m. – 12 noon

At Woodland Mound Park -
8250 Old Kellogg Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45255

Cost: \$10.

Pre-registration is required! To reserve your space, please send the following:

- Name(s)
- Address
- Daytime phone number
- Program date you will attend
- \$10 check addressed to Hamilton County SWCD

To:

Hamilton County SWCD
22 Triangle Park Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45246



Pond Clinics

Sponsored by Hamilton County & Butler County SWCD

Wednesday, April 14:
Izaak Walton League
450 Beissinger Rd, Hamilton, OH
6 p.m.— 9 p.m.

Wednesday, June 9:
Sharon Woods Education Center
11450 Lebanon Rd, Sharonville
6 p.m.— 9 p.m.

Call 772-7645 for information.





How Safe is Your Home? Make it Safer! Use the Hamilton County Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Program

Home is where the heart is. But the home is also where the hazardous waste lies.

Many items we use on a daily basis are considered household hazardous waste. These items can range from home improvement products to automotive fluids. Believe it or not, on average each home contains 60 to 100 pounds of hazardous chemicals!

Frequently, people's first thought is to throw these products in the garbage or down the drain when

they are finished with them. However, improper disposal and storage can injure waste haulers or family members.

To solve the problem with little effort and no cost, Hamilton County residents can use the Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Program.

To learn more about the free Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Program, call 513-946-7700 or visit www.hamiltoncountyclecycles.org.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Program

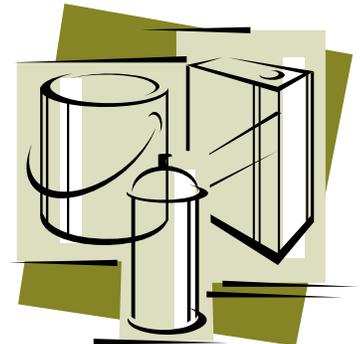
April 10—October 16, 2010

New Location!

Tuesdays: 2 p.m.—6 p.m.
Saturdays: 9 a.m.—1 p.m.

Clean Harbors
4879 Spring Grove Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45232

Closed the following Saturdays:
May 29, July 3 and September 4



Acceptable Items:

- Pesticides/Fertilizers
- Solvents/Thinners
- Lawn/Pool Chemicals
- Cleaners
- Household/Auto Batteries
- Fire Extinguishers
- Propane Tanks
- Oil-Based Paint
- Mercury
- Fluorescent Bulbs
- Driveway Sealer
- Gasoline/Motor Oil
- Antifreeze
- Thermostats

Unacceptable Items:

- Latex Paint →
- Radioactive Materials
- Medical Waste
- Explosives/Ammunition
- Smoke Detectors
- Tires
- Yardwaste
- Garbage
- Roofing Materials
- Appliances
- Computers/Electronics
- Heating Oil or Fuel Tanks
- Unmarked Cylinders
- Fireworks/Gun Powder
- Prescription Drugs

Latex paint is not accepted at the Household Hazardous Waste Dropoff Site, since it can be thrown away with regular trash once it is in its solid form.

To get latex paint in a solid form that is acceptable for trash collection, you must dry it out. Simply leave the lid off of the paint, and mix the paint with sand, saw dust or kitty litter to speed up the drying process.

Once the latex paint is dry and ready for disposal, leave the lid off when you dispose of the can. That way, your waste hauler can see that the paint is dry.



Did You Return Your 2010 Census Form? It's Not Too Late!



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

2010census.gov

Have a Census Form, but didn't mail it yet?

No problem! Although April 1 was the recommended return date, you can still mail your completed census form. Drop it in the mail today!

Lost Your Census Form? Didn't Receive One?

That's easy to fix! Just contact a "Be Counted" Center to pick up a form. There is a "Be Counted" center in every branch of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, plus in many retail stores and community buildings. Call 1-866-861-2010 for more information.

Need Help Completing Your Census Form?

Visit a "Be Counted" Center for assistance, or call 1-866-861-2010. Press '0' to exit the automated system and get assistance from a person.

It's important for our community that everyone be counted in the 2010 Census!

- The federal government allocates more than \$400 billion each year to states and communities based, in part, on census data.
- Census data are used to determine locations for schools, retail stores, hospitals, and other community facilities.
- Census data determine boundaries for state and local legislative and congressional districts.
- The Census determines the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.



This Little Card Generates Big Savings!

In January and February 2010, Hamilton County residents saved over \$30,000 on the cost of prescriptions using the Prescription Drug Discount Card. That was an average savings of 20% on the cost of prescription drugs not covered by insurance.

If you would like to save on the cost of your prescriptions that aren't covered by insurance, pick up your free Prescription Drug Discount card today.

Visit this link to learn more: www.hamiltoncountyrx.com



Greater Cincinnati ASPA Invites You To Attend the Public Administrator of the Year Awards Luncheon



The Greater Cincinnati Chapter
American Society for Public Administration

cordially invites you to attend
the twenty-seventh annual

*Public Administrator of the Year
Awards Luncheon*

The Phoenix
Ninth and Race Streets
Cincinnati, Ohio

Friday, April 23, 2010
Reception 11:45 a.m.
Lunch 12:00 p.m.

\$25.00 per Person
\$10.00 per Student

RSVP by April 15, 2010

2010 ASPA WINNERS

— Program Excellence —

*Center for Local Government Benefits Pool (CLGBP)
Center for Local Government*

— Career Achievement —

*Cheryl A. Hilvert
City of Montgomery*

— Individual Contributor —

*Wright Gwyn
City of Forest Park*

— Early Careerist —

*Lisa Doerger
Hamilton Co. Human Resources*

— Support Services —

*Susan K. Bennett
City of Blue Ash*

— Student —

*Lynne Ausman
Northern Kentucky University*

Please mail RSVPs to:

**GCC—ASPA c/o Kerri Castlen
Hamilton County Environmental Services
250 William Howard Taft Rd
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219**

Include:

**Check payable to GCC-ASPA
Number attending
Names
Organization**

For more information, please e-mail kerri.castlen@hamilton-co.org



Hamilton County Public Health Offers Active for Life® Health Education Program for Seniors

The Hamilton County Public Health Department offers an Active for Life® program, in which adults aged 50 and older can learn how to begin and maintain a more active lifestyle. New sessions are starting soon, and eligible adults are welcome to register.

Active for Life teaches that physical activity does not need to be strenuous or time-consuming to achieve health benefits. The program helps participants develop the behavioral skills needed to build moderate to vigorous physical activity into their daily lives like walking, gardening and playing with grandchildren. This is not an actual exercise class. Participants will learn:

- the benefits of physical activity;
- how to set goals and reward yourself;
- how to overcome your own barriers to physical activity;
- time and stress management.



Facilitated discussions, a self-help workbook and interactive activities provide the basis for the 75 minute weekly sessions. The \$15 fee covers all costs associated with the 13-week program.

Physical inactivity is one of the leading health risks for mid-life and older adults. It contributes to illnesses and disabilities such as arthritis, cancer, diabetes and heart disease. For important health benefits, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend older adults get at least 150 minutes of moderate-

intensity aerobic activity (such as brisk walking) each week as well as muscle-strengthening activities two or more days per week.

Active for Life® classes are starting soon at four locations. For more information or to sign up for a class, call Hamilton County Public Health at 513- 946-7813. Additional information is available at www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org.

Active for Life® 2010 schedule

Middletown Senior Center
3907 Central Ave.
Middletown, Ohio 45044
Mondays: 10 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Session begins: April 12

Community Wellness at Bayley Place (Delhi)
401 Farrell Court
Cincinnati, Ohio 45233
Thursdays: 10 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Session begins: April 15

Woodlawn Community Center
10050 Woodlawn Blvd.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45215
Wednesdays: 10 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Session begins: April 14

Evendale Recreation Center
10500 Reading Road
Evendale, Ohio 45241
Thursdays: 2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Session begins: April 15



Department of Environmental Services' Compost Bin Sale

If you've been considering getting a compost bin, the perfect chance is coming up! The Hamilton County Department of Environmental Service's Solid Waste Management District will be selling compost bins at more than half off the retail price. Hamilton County residents can purchase the Earth Machine composting bin, which typically retails for \$100, for just \$35.

The Earth Machine measures 33" x 33", and it has an 80 gallon capacity. It's perfect for backyard composting.

Backyard composting is an easy way to recycle yardwaste, and it produces a nutrient-rich soil amendment that is great for gardening. When added to soil, compost loosens the soil for better root penetration, improves soil's capacity to hold water, and adds essential nutrients.

Besides being beneficial, composting can be simple! Once you purchase your bin, simply choose a shaded, protected area in your backyard to place it. You want to protect the compost bin from direct sunlight and wind, but it shouldn't be placed too close to waterways or wooden buildings or trees.

Once the bin is in place, you're ready to get started! Mix materials high in carbon such as leaves, straw, sawdust or paper with grass clippings and food waste, which provides nitrogen. Then, let nature take its course!

Turning the pile once or twice a month will produce compost in about a year. The more frequently you turn, the faster the compost will decompose and be ready for use in mulching or incorporating into the soil.

To learn more about composting before the sale, visit the Department of Environmental Services' booth at Sawyer Point's Earth Day Celebration. It will be:

April 17th
Noon to 5 p.m.
At Sawyer Point

There, you can see a compost bin up close and view the finished product.

For more information about composting or the Backyard Compost Bin Sale, please call the Hamilton County Compost and Yardwaste Hotline at 946-7755 or visit www.hamiltoncountyclecyls.org.

Be sure to follow HCDOES on Twitter and Facebook.

Backyard Compost Bin Sale

Saturday, May 8, 2010

9 a.m.—2 p.m.

Two locations:

**Cincinnati State Technical and
Community College**
3520 Central Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45223
(Enter off Ludlow Ave, Parking Lot C)

and

Princeton High School
11080 Chester Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45246
(Enter parking lot across from the
school)

**Bins are \$35 each for Hamilton
County residents. Supplies are
limited, so get there early to
purchase yours!**



Caring Families are Needed!



Kendall & Kaudajah **February 2002 and March 2003**

Kaudajah and Kendall share a couple of interests – soccer and cartoons!

It's not all soccer, all the time for Kaudajah. She may be a little shy, but cheerleading intrigues her greatly! She loves to watch basketball, too.

Kaudajah enjoys school and gets good grades. If she can spend all of her spend time in art class, that's just fine! Kaudajah says she likes her teacher, and she really likes it when the teacher moves her desk around the room because she can see different things all around her. When she's not in school, Kaudajah will play with her doll or challenge herself with a computer game (she loves computers!).

If you have a thing for vanilla pudding, Kaudajah is right there with you – it's her favorite, too! She's thinking about becoming a ballerina teacher when she grows up.

Kendall may very well be a budding sports star! He can't resist playing basketball, baseball and soccer. If he can't get out to play one of those, Kendall looks for a football game on television.

When it comes to food, this energetic and bold boy loves fruit and pizza! He likes going to the beach, parks and pools. Quieter times might find him checking out some R&B music or watching Rug Rats. Kendall thinks he might like to be a firefighter someday.

For information about these siblings, or about becoming a foster or adoptive parent, call (513) 632-6366 or visit www.hckids.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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