



Hello Hamilton County

April 2008

E-News for Hamilton County citizens and employees

Quote of the month:

“There are many wonderful things that will never be done if you do not do them.”

~ Charles D. Gill



Banks Groundbreaking April 2nd, 2008 “A Great Day for Cincinnati”



On April 2nd, the Banks groundbreaking initiated work on Cincinnati’s new premiere riverfront development.

“We’re on our way to a fully-developed riverfront, one which makes downtown, our county and region stronger,” said Hamilton County Commission President Todd Portune during the groundbreaking event.

For more details, please see the article on p. 2.





Banks Groundbreaking: “A Great Day for Cincinnati”



The City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County and the Banks Master Development Team of Carter and the Dawson Company announced work has started on the Banks, Cincinnati’s new premiere riverfront development.

The groundbreaking, held on April 2nd, begins the site preparation for Phase 1A of the development. Construction is targeted to be completed in 2010. The first phase of the project is projected to include about 300 apartments and 70,000 square feet of retail.

Governor Strickland and Lt. Governor Fisher attended and spoke at the groundbreaking event. Former UN Ambassador, Atlanta Mayor, and civil rights leader Andrew Young also spoke at the event.

“It’s a great day for Cincinnati that development has begun on one of the most exciting developments in our region,” Mayor Mark Mallory said. “The Banks will help reinvigorate our city by optimizing our riverfront with a new urban community.”

Once completed, the Banks will be Cincinnati’s largest single, mixed-use development and be comprised of a dynamic blend of residential, office and retail com-

ponents. The total project will be a 2.8 million square foot development on 18 acres along Cincinnati’s downtown riverfront.

“We’re on our way to a fully-developed riverfront, one which makes downtown, our county and region stronger,” said Todd Portune, Hamilton County Commission President. “With the Banks Development we’re creating a landmark economic and cultural center for our community.”

“We are thankful to the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Ohio for choosing our team to make this premier development a reality,” said Trent Germano, vice chairman at Carter. “The Banks will be a vibrant community in Cincinnati that creates a prominent front door to the city and the region.”

The Banks Development will drive approximately \$600 million in private investments; bringing more than 3,000 residents to the area while creating a new office, retail and entertainment center.

National City Bank has been named as one of the majority funders to help provide the \$74 million needed to finance Phase 1A. This includes:

- \$40 million senior debt financing commitment from National City Bank.
- \$10 million debt financing commitment from the Cincinnati Equity Fund.
- \$12 million equity funding led by Carter, Dawson and its investors.
- \$12 million in grant funding from the City and County for the residential portion of the Project.

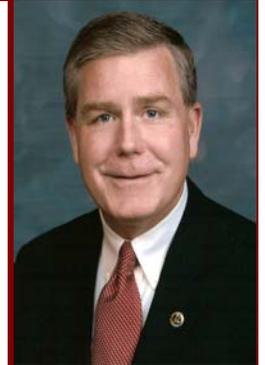
“We are very excited to work with such a strong financial institution and corporate citizen as National City Bank,” said Harold A. Dawson, Jr., president of the Dawson Company. “They have demonstrated tremendous leadership and a substantial local commitment as a financial partner to make this a great project for Cincinnati and the region.”

The new project also promotes business opportunities for small business enterprises, including minority-owned and women-owned firms in the community. The construction of the Banks encompasses breakthrough agreements for the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County on economic inclusion and workforce development.



Patrick's Perspective

Public Service Recognition Is Important!



**Patrick Thompson
Hamilton County
Administrator**

The week of May 5th is designated nationally as Public Service Recognition week. Exemplary public service will be recognized at Centennial Plaza on Wednesday, May 7th at noon. Please take time to join in and celebrate the achievements of your public servants!

As Public Service Recognition week approaches, I believe it's important to thank and recognize all of our Hamilton County employees for their dedication to serving our community.

In this edition of "Hello Hamilton County," you can read about the accomplishments of a few employees — and those accomplishments are representative of thousands of employee's achievements that you may never hear about.

For example, Ron Miller is retiring after 30 years of service in the Planning and Zoning Departments. Many other county employees work for a number of years for Hamilton County, ultimately retiring from the organization. They dedicate years of their lives sharing their time, talent, and skills to help Hamilton County provide important services the best way possible. They are to be commended!

Seven Hamilton County employees and one team of employees have earned Employee of the Year awards. Over 70 nominations were received recommending various employees for this honor. All of the nominees are very deserving. And they represent the

excellence of the many Hamilton County employees who work on behalf of our community.

Public Works employees received a Project Gain award for work that they have done above and beyond their normal duties. They found an innovative way to meet a need within Hamilton County, expanding the services that they offer. They exemplify the innovative thinking that is being emphasized in Hamilton County government.

As Public Service Recognition week approaches, I want to personally commend and thank every Hamilton County employee. As individuals, they work diligently to serve. Together, they make a positive difference for Hamilton County.

Please join me in thanking Hamilton County employees during Public Service Recognition week.

**Public Service
Recognition Event**

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Noon

Centennial Plaza



Hamilton County Announces Employee of the Year Award Recipients

The Board of Hamilton County Commissioners is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2008 Hamilton County Employee of the Year awards. This year, winners were selected in seven categories, and nominations were received from both county employees and members of the public.



Award winners include:

- **Robert Obermeyer—Leadership Award**
Vice President of Operations, Mental Health Recovery Services Board
- **Brian Urban — Professional Achievement Award**
Associate Chief of Probation Substations, Hamilton County Adult Probation
- **Daniel Taphorn — Innovation Award**
Urban Conservationist, Soil and Water Conservation District
- **Susan Schumacher—Customer Service Excellence Award**
Solid Waste Assistant, Department of Environmental Services
- **Bridgette Johnson — Administrative/Clerical Support Award**
Office Support Specialist, Job and Family Services
- **Integrity Trendsetters Team — Extra Mile Award**
Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services (See p. 7 for team members' names.)
- **Joseph Elfers — County Hero Award**
Intensive Supervision Unit, Hamilton County Adult Probation
- **Deputy Gregory Sersion — County Hero Award**
Patrol Officer, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

You can congratulate the employees during a recognition ceremony on Centennial Plaza, May 7th at noon. Please watch for profiles of each of the winners in future editions of "Hello Hamilton County."

Congratulations 2008 ASPA Public Administrator of the Year Award Recipients!



- Program Excellence: EXCEL Program—Talbert House
- Career Achievement: Bernard Boraten—Amberly Village
- Individual Contributor: Peggy Kurz—Hamilton County MRDD
- Early Careerist: Holly Christmann—Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services
- Support Services: Cindy Rains—City of Montgomery
- Student: Elishia Chamberlain—Northern Kentucky University



Ron Miller Retiring as Executive Director of Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission



Ron Miller
Executive Director, HCRPC
and Rural Zoning Commission

After 30 years of service - 21 of them as executive director - Ron Miller has announced his retirement from the [Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission](#) (HCRPC) and Rural Zoning Commission.

"It's often said that you should choose a work that you love and you won't have to work another day," Miller says. "I'm fortunate to have made such a choice in my career and in the organization and community that I have served."

He says his top accomplishment over his 21 years as executive director has been building innovative community building partnerships such as the Planning Partnership, the Local Alliance for Nature and Development, and [Community COMPASS](#).

"The point of building community partnerships was to create a sustainable structure for long-term systemic change in our community," Miller says. "With the help of thousands of people, we have created that foundation."

He also credits the HCRPC's work ethic of innovation, collaboration and creativity for its 30 national awards and one international award for planning and implementation project teams over the last five years.

Miller insists that he's pursuing a renaissance, a reinventing - not a retirement.

He'll continue to stay involved in community development through his volunteer associations with [Leadership Cincinnati USA](#), the [Cincinnati Association](#), the [United Way Social Research Council](#), [Agenda 360](#), and other boards and civic sector committees.

Miller's last day at his position will be April 30. HCRPC development services coordinator Todd Kinskey has been named as the interim director. A permanent replacement is likely to be appointed in 2009.

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Public Works Employees Recognized For Their Innovative Project Gain Program Entry



Commissioners Pepper, Portune, and DeWine congratulate members of the Public Works Department on their Project Gain Success.



Jerry Singleton, Bob Sturgill, and Jeff Lawrence attended a Board of County Commissioners' meeting on behalf of their team, to receive a certificate of appreciation for their innovative work.

Twelve Public Works Department employees contributed to the efficient operation of Hamilton County government, above their normal scope of duties, and provided increased revenue for Hamilton County as part of the Project Gain Program.

The employees work at Maintenance Headquarters on Burlington Road. They are Bob Sturgill, Amy Engstrom, Ken Galbraith, David Hoover, Joey Kueffner, Jeff Lawrence, Jack Luensman, Bill Oaks, Steve Predmore, Jerry Singleton, Jeff Wickman and Scott Wilson.

As part of their regular duties the maintenance staff repair

inventoried fire hydrants within the unincorporated areas of Hamilton County (that covers the townships). The various cities and villages are responsible for repair of the hydrants within their jurisdictions. In 2007 the maintenance staff contracted with the City of Forest Park and the Village of Lockland to maintain their fire hydrants. This has been in addition to their workload, with no changes to standard shift hours. They also used salvaged parts when they could. The additional work and use of salvaged parts increased Hamilton County revenue in 2007 by \$23,762.

Eleven of the employees re-

ceived \$1,000 and one part-time employee received \$516. They were recognized at the Board of County Commissioners' Meeting on April 23 and received a certificate of appreciation from the County Administrator. This is the third Project Gain program Public Works has submitted, one of which was a joint program with County Facilities. Congratulations to all of the employees!



**Hamilton
County
Innovates!**



Host Your Summer Events At the Hamilton County Parks!



The Hamilton County Parks provide great locations for summer events. You can reserve a picnic shelter, a lodge, or a banquet center.

Many of the parks' picnic shelters provide amenities such as ballfields, playgrounds, and volleyball posts and nets. The various picnic shelters can accommodate 90—360 people. Self Service lodges provide kitchens, so you can prepare food for your event conveniently. Banquet centers are the way to go for formal events such as wedding receptions, holidays, and corporate meetings. Each banquet center is set on the parks' award-winning golf courses.

To learn more or to reserve a park facility for your event, please visit this link:

<http://www.hamiltoncountyparks.org/reservations/reservations.htm>

Employee of the Year Award Recipients: Integrity Trendsetters Team Members

Congratulations to the Job and Family Services employees
who are members of the award-winning Integrity Trendsetters Team.

Caryl Creighton
Crystal Young
Kameshia McKenzie
Keith Reed
Jennifer Kinney
Felita Smith
Sandra Loring

Shanta Wakefield
Stephanie Waldon
Yonas Asmerom
Ebony-Nicole Thomas
Lynn Rogers
Christine Wallace

Stacy Ware
Patricia Williams
Jennifer Ruff
Jackie Ward
Vicki Beare
Pam King



Extraordinary Hamilton County High School Students Invited to Join Youth Council

HAMILTON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

250 William Howard Taft Road • Cincinnati, OH 45219
Phone: 513-946-7777 • Fax: 513-946-7779

www.hcdoes.org

The Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services (HCDOES) has created its first ever youth council and is seeking extraordinary Hamilton County high school students to join.

The HCDOES Youth Council will provide students with the opportunity to learn about and discuss environmental issues such as air quality and recycling, attend air quality and solid waste policy committee meetings, and learn how to make changes in their schools and communities. HCDOES envisions this initiative to be a forum that will meet every other month after school hours to give Hamilton County teens a stronger voice in developing environmental policies and programs.

"The HCDOES Youth Council is making it easy and fun for youth in Hamilton County to get involved and participate in groundbreaking work," said Cory Chadwick, director of the Hamilton County Department of Environ-

mental Services. "We hope the council will be successful in getting Hamilton County's youth involved in the community and to help develop environmental leaders of the future."

Interested Hamilton County high school students between the ages of 13-18 are encouraged to apply. The HCDOES Youth Council application is available to download at www.hcdoes.org. All completed applications are due to Leslie Meiring by **Thursday, May 1**. Applications can be mailed to 250 William Howard Taft Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45219, emailed to leslie.meiring@hamilton-co.org or faxed to 513-946-7779.

HCDOES will select approximately 20-25 students to participate in these bimonthly meetings. Parents and teachers interested in serving as advisors are invited to call 513-946-7754.



A Caring Family is Needed!



Makeeba **Born August 27, 1996**

Although she may first strike you as a quiet pre-teen, Makeeba has a lot going on under the surface. She has definite opinions about her likes and dislikes and she has wonderfully varied interests. This unique girl likes playing in the mud, but also has a love of drawing and doing science projects. Like other kids her age, she loves pizza and cheeseburgers, but she also has an affinity for Indian food. Don't try to peg her – she definitely keeps you guessing!

Makeeba enjoys Science class at school, but isn't sure if she'd like to be a nurse, an artist or work with children. She loves attention from adults, and would do well as the only child in an adoptive home. Makeeba enjoys soccer and any kind of active outing, such as Kings Island, the Zoo or The Beach. On the flip side, this friendly girl also loves relaxing activities like being read to or playing card games.

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



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

Hello Hamilton County is published 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.

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