



Hello Hamilton County

August 2010

E-News for Hamilton County citizens and employees

Quote of the month:

***“Keep in mind that neither success or failure
is ever final.”***

~Roger Babson

Hamilton County Recorder's Office #1 in Ohio For Number of Documents Processed Per Employee



The Hamilton County Recorder's Incredibly Efficient Employees

Employees of the Hamilton County Recorder's Office process more documents per employee than in any other Recorder's Office in Ohio, according to the Ohio Recorder's Association.

The Association's 2009 Recorder Comparison indicates that in 2009, the Hamilton County Recorder's Office processed 152,000 documents. That's the second highest number of documents processed in the state. While this is 12,000 documents less than one other County (Cuyahoga), Hamilton County did it with almost one

third the number of staff. The Cuyahoga County Recorder's Office employed 78 people in 2009. After budget cuts that resulted in smaller staff size due to the layoff of ten people, the Hamilton County Recorder's Office had 27 employees in 2009.

“Our employees believe in government efficiency, and it is through their efforts that the Hamilton County Recorder's Office achieved such recognition,” Recorder Wayne Coates stated.

In 2009, Recorder Coates' staff provided a turnaround time for

processing documents of about one day. Turnaround times range from same day to four days for the ten largest Ohio Recorders' Offices included in the comparison.

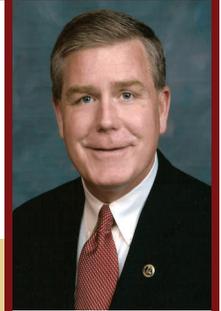
The one day turnaround time is quick by any standard, but especially considering the Hamilton County Recorder's Office processes about 5,629 documents per employee each year. That's well above the average of 3,334 documents per employee cited in the comparison.

Congratulations to the Hamilton County Recorder's Office!



Patrick's Perspective

Employees Encouraged to Participate in Innovation Incentive Programs



Patrick Thompson,
Hamilton County
Administrator

You may think that Hamilton County leaders have more interest than ever in saving money, as we work to develop the 2011 budget. Actually, Hamilton County leaders are ALWAYS interested in saving money and providing the most efficient service possible — even when we're not working to develop a budget. That focus on saving money is apparent at every level here in Hamilton County government, from the newest, most entry level employee on up.

The Board of County Commissioners and I recognize that employees are interested in saving money and enhancing services for our community. That's apparent, for example, in the way the Recorder's Office employees have stepped up to the plate to process more documents per employee than any other Recorder's Office in the State, despite coping with budget cuts and layoffs. I applaud employees' willingness to do what it takes to make things work well in these tough financial times.

Since employees are dedicated to saving money and adding value, I encourage employees to participate in the innovation incentive programs. The Project Gain and Fresh Ideas programs reward employees for sharing and/or implementing ideas that add value for Hamilton County.

Project Gain

The Project Gain program provides a means to reward all eligible em-

ployees for situations in which they go above and beyond the normal scope of duties to implement an idea that saves money. Project Gain compensates individual or groups of employees based on enhanced revenues and cost savings.

Using the Project Gain Program, two Job and Family Services employees recently saved over \$100,000 by implementing an idea that was outside of the scope of their jobs.

Scott Kirby, Computer Operator, and Stephen Lonski, Network Administrator, worked together to streamline the Child Care voucher process. They streamlined forms and the way forms are mailed to simplify the mailing process, reduce postage, and make it easier for customers to keep track of their paperwork. Both were rewarded with checks for \$1,000. You can read about their project on p. 11 of this newsletter.

Fresh Ideas

Fresh Ideas is an employee suggestion program created to encourage and reward individual employees for sharing practical ideas that benefit Hamilton County by improving efficiency, enhancing service, or generating savings or revenue. Employees whose suggestions are implemented are rewarded according to the value saved or revenue earned by the County.

Employees whose ideas save

\$200 or more can receive money or one-day paid leave — it's the employee's choice!

Employees whose Fresh Ideas save less than \$200 or add value that's unrelated to cost savings can be entered into a raffle. Raffle prizes include one month's worth of free downtown parking, tickets to local events, and restaurant gift certificates.

For the remainder of 2010, employees who participate in Fresh Ideas can receive incentive bonuses. For those ideas that save \$200 or more, employees typically receive \$200. Through the end of 2010, employees will receive an extra \$100 — that's \$300 total.

Employees whose ideas qualify them for entry in the raffle also receive a bonus through the end of 2010. They will be re-entered for the next raffle, if they don't win the first time.

For more information about both incentive reward programs, please visit [this link](#).

Please take a few minutes to learn more about Project Gain and Fresh Ideas, and do what you can to participate in the programs. You deserve to have your ideas heard, and you can make a positive difference for Hamilton County.



Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund Grant Would Provide Economic, Community and Environmental Benefits

Redeveloping blighted, abandoned properties is a central focus of many communities' economic development efforts, and Hamilton County is no different. This year, the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners has applied for grant funding to help cleanup one key site in the community, so it can be ready for economic development.



The Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund Grant would fund cleanup for this Lockland site.

redevelopment costs prohibitive. Making this site shovel-ready through a Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund grant will allow the strategic location and wealth of existing infrastructure to attract new development opportunities and will bring much-needed tax revenue, jobs, and excitement to the first-ring suburb of Lockland.

The Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners has applied for a grant from the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund for cleanup of the Stearns & Foster site located in Lockland. The Stearns & Foster site is visible from I-75, and right now, it's an eyesore. Everyone who drives by sees the remnants of a massive, four-alarm fire that took place on May 1, 2004. Due to the fire, many of the site's buildings have been condemned and must be demolished. The eastern half of the Stearns & Foster site has been a blight, eyesore, and health hazard since the fire.

The goal of the cleanup of the Stearns & Foster site is to position the property for redevelopment through demolition and remediation activities. The \$1,999,948 grant would enable the underutilized, vacant property to be ready for redevelopment and economic growth opportunities.

There has been a steady stream of interest in redeveloping the property over the past five years. However, the environmental conditions and the amount of demolition that is necessary has made

"This Stearns & Foster site is a project that really can't happen soon enough," says Assistant County Administrator Jeff Aluotto. "It obviously will mean a great deal to revitalizing the Village of Lockland and, for years, has been one of the County's priority sites for redevelopment – given its ready access to both highway and rail systems. We're hoping that, as the State continues to improve I-75, this will be the start of good things for this location and the entire industrial corridor."

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A public meeting to discuss the Stearns & Foster project and to solicit comments on the grant application will be held:

**Thursday, September 9, 2010
7 p.m.
Lockland Town Hall—Community Room
101 North Cooper Avenue
Lockland, Ohio 45215**

All citizens are welcome to attend and share their thoughts. Those who wish to review the grant application may visit this link:

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



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If funded, the Stearns & Foster project is ready to begin immediately. The Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority (Port Authority) is a co-applicant with the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners. The Port Authority has extensive experience with successfully implementing Clean Ohio grants. Hamilton County's partnering with the Port Authority will ensure that the grant management and implementation will be handled

efficiently and in compliance with Clean Ohio requirements.

Hamilton County leaders anticipate that they will learn whether or not the grant is awarded for this project in the Fall. If the grant is awarded to Hamilton County and the Port Authority, the Stearns & Foster site cleanup project is ready to proceed, so the economic, community, and environmental benefits for the Village of Lockland and Hamilton County can be realized.

Hamilton County Prescription Drug Discount Program Gets Record Use in June

Pick up your free card at these locations:

- **Branches of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County**
- **YMCA Branches**
- **Many social services agencies, such as the FreeStore Foodbank and Talbert House**
- **Hamilton County Job and Family Services Offices**

Hamilton County residents used the Prescription Drug Discount Card when filling almost 2,000 prescriptions in June, making it the biggest use of the program in the 18 months since the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners implemented the money-saving program. In June alone, residents saved \$20,590.91 on the cost of their prescriptions by using this program.

Any Hamilton County resident can use this free program to qualify for discounts on prescription medications that are not covered by insurance. Residents can pick up the free card at one of many locations, and they can use the card at any participating pharmacy. When residents show the card, the pharmacy applies the discount. It's an easy and convenient way to save money.



Since January 2009, residents have saved \$269,843.51 on the cost of prescription medication.

To learn more, please visit www.hamiltoncountyrx.com.



Local Activities Planned for National Child Support Awareness Month

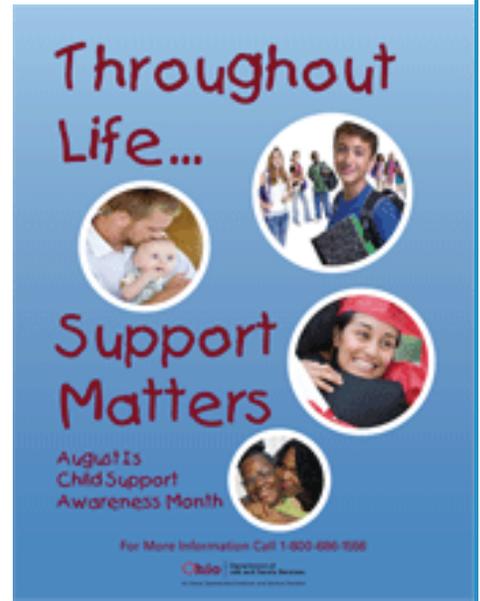
Throughout Life... Support Matters. That's the theme for Ohio Child Support Awareness Month in August.

Hamilton County Child Support has more than 90,000 cases. More than 300,000 men, women, and children are involved with these cases. Child support is crucial. It can be the difference between custodial parents keeping or losing their homes. Child support puts food on the table, pays electric bills, and buys school clothes.

"Too many fathers and mothers shirk the responsibility of financially supporting their children, and our agency will do everything within its power to see that those children receive the support they need to lead healthy, happy lives," said JFS Director Moira Weir.

Hamilton County plans many activities, including:

- **Most Wanted poster.**
Publication of the Annual Most Wanted poster of non-paying parents for 2010. To get a copy, please call 946-2189.
- **Drivers' license amnesty.**
Throughout August, parents who have had their drivers' licenses suspended for delinquent child support may qualify for drivers' license amnesty and have the opportunity to get the licenses reinstated. To participate, call 946-SETS.
- ***A Brighter Future: Strengthening Our Fathers for Families and Communities, Aug. 13, Kingsgate Marriott.***
A free day-long workshop for fathers and attorneys (public and private), court personnel, fatherhood practitioners and others who work with fathers and families. To register, [click here](#)
- **Recognition of the annual Child Support Hero.**
During the "A Brighter Future" workshop, Hamilton County Juvenile Court Judge Thomas Lipps will be honored as a Child Support Hero for assisting in the mission of seeing that children receive the financial support they need.
- **Outreach to Hispanic community.**
The Federal government has created new brochures for Spanish-speaking parents. Local fact sheets also are being translated into Spanish. To get copies, call 946-2195.



For more information about Hamilton County Child Support,
please visit [this link](#).



Hamilton County Job and Family Services Selected for Program Exploring New Ways to Help Abused Children

Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services (HCJFS) is one of 25 child welfare agencies in Ohio now offering innovative, alternative approaches to serving the families of abused children.

HCJFS was recently selected as one of 10 counties to soon join 15 pilot counties in Ohio to participate in a program designed to produce better outcomes for abused and neglected children. The program, developed with the American Humane Association, the Institute of Applied Research and a group of Minnesota consultants, explores alternative, individualized responses to child welfare cases that are aimed at keeping children safely unified with families and out of foster care.

The Ohio Alternative Response Pilot Project evolved from the work of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Children, Families, and the Courts' Subcommittee on Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency. The program approaches families in a non-adversarial way, without the constant threat of punishment that often accompanies child welfare cases. While child safety is still the number one goal, the Alternative Response approach recognizes the different levels of severity with child welfare cases and the fact that they can be treated in different ways.

"This approach is really about assessing the needs of each family on an individual basis and offering services to meet those needs," said Moira Weir, HCJFS Director. "This has been tried in many places throughout the country and all studies show it to be a successful way of both keeping children safe and reducing the number of children who end up in foster care."



According to a study conducted on results from 10 Ohio pilot counties, Alternative Response resulted in:

- Children remaining as safe with this approach as the traditional investigative approach;
- Families more satisfied with the services they received;
- Greater participation in decision making by families;
- Greater satisfaction among child welfare workers;
- A decline in the number of children being removed from their home and placed elsewhere.

Hamilton County investigated more than 5,300 reports of abuse and neglect last year. Alternative Response will not replace the agency's traditional response, but instead augment it. Alternative Response helps connect these families to the community organizations and agencies that can provide the services they need.

"The level of severity in our cases differs widely, and in some cases, intense services up front can set the family on the right path, while in other cases, long-term involvement is necessary," Weir said. "This allows us to recognize that and approach each family in an individual manner. Policies and procedures can now differ as we work to support families in a different way."

The 10 counties selected to participate in the pilot project include: Ashtabula, Athens, Coshocton, Erie, Hamilton, Hocking, Huron, Mahoning, Medina and Washington.

The 15 counties currently participating include: Champaign, Clark, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Guernsey, Licking, Lucas, Madison, Montgomery, Richland, Ross, Summit, Trumbull and Tuscarawas.



Hamilton County Successfully Completes Home Sewage Treatment System Grant Program

Owning a home is expensive, especially when major repairs need to be made. But for 29 Hamilton County homeowners, those repair costs were made a bit more manageable, thanks to a program administered by Hamilton County Community Development and Hamilton County Public Health.

Hamilton County's Home Sewage Treatment System Grant Program recently paid for repairing or replacing 29 failing home sewage systems, using funds provided by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA).

Hamilton County's program distributed \$392,666 of ARRA funds in the form of grants to homeowners whose incomes fall below 200% of the poverty level.

According to the Recovery.gov website, home sewage systems consist of a septic tank, a sewage treatment unit, and leach lines for soil absorption. Replacing or repairing a system can cost more than \$15,000. Many homeowners can't afford this type of work, yet when these systems fail, it can cause public health concerns and contamination.

The grant program was beneficial in many ways. It enabled homeowners to fund replacing or repairing the sewage systems, thereby avoiding possible loss of their homes. And it benefitted the community and the environment by no longer allowing

improperly treated sewage to infiltrate the ecosystem and, potentially, the water supply.

Community Development and Public Health employees "worked extremely hard to get these funds spent on eligible and worthwhile projects in a very short time frame," said Susan Walsh, Director of Community Development. "All funds were committed by November 1, 2009, and all new systems were completed by the end of July, 2010. The cooperation and teamwork involved in accomplishing this was really phenomenal!"

Community Development handled the administration and financial aspects of this program. The department processed applications, determined eligibility, corresponded with clients and contractors, made payments, requested reimbursement from the state, and provided reports on the use of funds.

Public Health disseminated information about the program to households with failing home sewage systems, provided initial



A Hamilton County Public Health Inspector inspects a home sewage system.

inspection and approval of the permit applications, communicated with Community Development about the status of the program, and provided final inspections of the completed work.

Thanks to this team approach, Hamilton County's Home Sewage Treatment System Grant Program has proven beneficial!



Hamilton County Government Offices Reach Out Using Social Media

Recently, one Job and Family Services' (JFS) manager spent an hour at work chatting online, and another spent some time on Facebook. You might think this would be grounds for disciplinary action, but actually, these activities are part of their jobs!

Hamilton County JFS has won awards and been recognized nationally for its innovative use of social media to conduct business. And many other Hamilton County organizations are finding that using social media is an effective, efficient way to communicate with interested citizens.

What is Social Media?

So what is social media? There are so many definitions out there! But in general, using social media involves using technology that's easily accessible to many people to share information or engage in discussions. While Hamilton County organizations use many different forms of social media, the most commonly used are Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, blogs, and online chats.

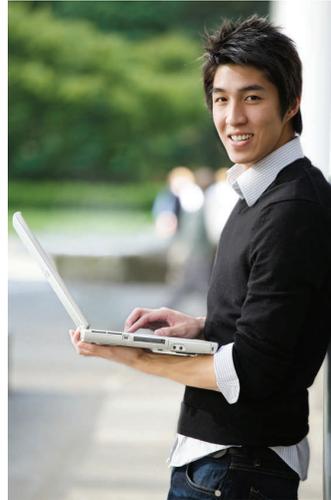
Benefits of Social Media

The County organizations using social media find it beneficial for many reasons. It's a convenient way to communicate, for both the organizations and constituents. It provides opportunities to communicate quickly and directly about important issues. And it can save time for those using it.

"Social media is a great tool for us, because it allows us to inform and educate the public at no or little cost to the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services (HCDOES)," says Sarah Dowers, Public Relations Coordinator for HCDOES. "HCDOES is also able to stay connected and informed with what partner organizations are promoting on their social media accounts."

"It's nice for the residents who use Facebook, Twitter, and blogs to receive updates in formats they are familiar with and are already checking during the day," says Michelle Balz, Community Outreach Coordinator for the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services (HCDOES).

"Social networking is a tremendous opportunity to educate the public regarding public health issues," says



Megan Hummel, Public Affairs Specialist for Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH). "It provides easy interaction with customers and colleagues. It gives HCPH a voice that is unfiltered. The sources of information people trust are changing — that is why we felt it was important to be actively engaged in new media."

"We are using social media to take pressure off our crowded waiting rooms and overburdened phone lines," says Mike Boehmer, HCJFS Senior Public Relations Specialist. "People in tough situations can get quick answers to questions without needing to wait on hold or come downtown."

Just as there are many benefits to using social media, there are many ways it can be used.



Facebook

Facebook is a free social networking website that allows individuals, groups, and organizations to set up pages with which they can share information.

Some of the Hamilton County organizations that have Facebook pages include:

- Department of Environmental Services
- Developmental Disabilities Services
- Hamilton County Adoption and Foster Care
- Job and Family Services
- Public Health

Any Facebook user can choose to "like" these Hamilton County pages, and the users will automatically receive updates every time content is posted on the Hamilton County pages. The organizations can post messages, photos, video, and links to websites.

Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) posts on Facebook when media articles mention the agency or disability issues, when the agency has a television news clip that will be airing, or when opening up registration for events, says Jenny Dexter, DDS' Director of Community Relations. "We also use Facebook to post highlights of exciting things like awards the agency or staff members win."

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Twitter

Twitter provides a way for organizations to quickly share information and build relationships with people who care about the organization. Twitter enables users to write and read messages of up to 140 characters long. The messages are public, and users decide what sort of information to read, when they select who to “follow” on Twitter. For example, users can choose to follow the various Hamilton County organizations that they have an interest in. People can access Twitter easily from their PCs or from their mobile phones.

HCPH uses Twitter frequently. “HCPH (@HamCoHealth on Twitter) provides updates, called a tweet, several times each week,” says Hummel. Messages are broad ranging from personal health, public health concerns, and HCPH in the news.

“The Twitter feed experienced significant growth while H1N1 flu was active,” says Hummel. “HCPH’s Twitter account grew in both the number of followers and the level of interaction and messages.” This experience illustrates how valuable social media can be when a Hamilton County organization is addressing a timely issue.

The Hamilton County Law Library also uses Twitter. “Our tweets announce news and programs and occasionally highlight breaking news of interest to the legal community,” says Director and Law Librarian Mary Jenkins.

YouTube

YouTube is a website on which users can upload, share, and view videos. Hamilton County organizations have used it to post a variety of videos, including:

- DDS’ agency awareness DVD;
- DOES’ video about how to dry out latex paint for proper disposal;
- JFS’ Child Support Summary video;
- JFS’ National Adoption Day video;
- JFS’ Teen Adoption commercial.

Blogs

Blogs are a series of online postings, usually arranged chronologically like a journal, that enable a person or organization to share information about a topic in an



Michelle Balz writes DOES’ “Confessions of a Composter” Blog

ongoing way. Various Hamilton County organizations publish blogs.

- DOES publishes a composting blog. “The blog is all about composting tips and stories,” says blogger Michelle Balz. “I try to keep it light and fun to read.”
- JFS Director Moira Weir publishes a Director’s Blog, in which she shares information and her thoughts about issues important to JFS.
- The Hamilton County Law Library has published a blog since 2004, and it is archived by the Library of Congress as an authoritative blawg (a legal blog). It reports and comments on legal news and announces library news and upcoming events.

Online Chats

Online chats are a format in which a group of people or two individuals can communicate by typing messages to each other that are shared instantly online.

JFS offers two different types of online chats. Once or twice each month, they offer online chats that are available for many people to join at the same time. These chats are about topics like child care; child support; employment services; and Medicaid, food assistance and cash assistance. They provide people with a chance to ask questions, share ideas, and offer comments. Everyone participating in the chat can see everyone else’s comments.

JFS also offers opportunities for customers to engage in private online chats about their cases. More than 2,800 child support chats took place in 2009. And since March of this year, JFS’ Family and Adult Assistance Technicians and Child Care workers have done more than 10,000 chats.

Customer response has been positive. “Customers who choose this option like it, and their questions are answered quickly,” says HCJFS Chief Operating Officer Tim McCartney.

Social media is proving to be mutually beneficial for Hamilton County organizations and Hamilton County constituents. Please check your favorite social media venues to find the Hamilton County organizations cited in this article!

County leaders who are interested in attending a seminar to learn more about how their organizations can use social media are welcome to contact Laura Maus at laura.maus@hamilton-co.org or 946-4708.



Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners Honors Living Legend Thelma McCray



Commissioner David Pepper visits with Mrs. Thelma McCray.

The Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) proclaimed July 14, 2010 “Thelma McCray Day” for all of Hamilton County, in honor of McCray’s 99th birthday.

McCray was born in Cincinnati on July 14th, 1911. Ninety –nine years later, she continues to enjoy an active social life, participating in numerous clubs and organizations. She has been a member of the Peace Baptist Church in Avondale for over 70 years.

McCray’s husband, Oscar McCray, served in the Army from 1917 to 1919 and fought bravely in World War I. McCray is the oldest widow of a WWI veteran in the State of Ohio.

McCray is known as a positive and joyful woman who looks out for those around her and checks up on her considerably younger neighbors. With Thelma McCray Day, the BOCC honored McCray’s outstanding spirit and commitment to the community.

Hamilton County Public Health Provides Tips for Staying Safe In Extreme Heat



Hamilton County residents have been enjoying a lot of sunshine this summer, and it has been hot! Hamilton County Public Health wants to make sure that people know what to do to stay safe from extreme heat.

To see helpful information about staying safe in extreme heat, please visit [this link](#).



JFS Employees' Project Gain Program Saves Over \$100,000 in First Year



Left: Stephen Lonski (Left) and Scott Kirby (Right) earned \$1,000 each for their Project Gain Program. Right: Hamilton County Job and Family Services Director Moira Weir presents the Board of County Commissioners with a check representing the \$109,000 that the Project Gain Program saved in its first year.

Two employees from Hamilton County Job and Family Services (HCJFS) each received \$1,000 for their innovative Project Gain program, which saved over \$109,000 in its first year.

Stephen Lonski, Network Administrator, and Scott Kirby, Computer Operator, worked together to streamline the Child Care voucher process.

Although the Child Care voucher process is outside Kirby and Lonski's scope of duties, they noticed an area where money could be saved, and they acted on it.

Changes that they recommended and helped implement include:

- Developed a double-sided, one page form to replace carbon forms and save paper costs;
- Proposed that multiple vouchers going to the same recipient be combined into one envelope so

money could be saved on envelopes and postage. 75% of voucher recipients receive multiple vouchers, so this resulted in big savings!

- Streamlined the voucher process to eliminate a portion of the process that was labor-intensive and prone to mechanical failures.

Feedback from the Child Care voucher recipients has been great! They are happy with the new way that vouchers are mailed, as they no longer need to track multiple items in the mail. Plus, they say that they like the carbonless forms better.

So by sharing and implementing their idea, Lonski and Kirby saved a lot of money, saved employee time by streamlining a process, and increased customer satisfaction.

"I am happy that, within a time of fiscal hardship, leadership saw fit to make the idea happen," said Kirby.

Commission President Todd Portune thanked Lonski and Kirby and acknowledged the importance of the Project Gain program.

"It has fostered tremendous innovation that has resulted in financial awards to a number of county employees," said Portune. "The real award winners are the taxpayers in Hamilton County. For what are nominal awards, those innovations are saving County taxpayers cumulatively millions of dollars on an annual basis. It's a very good program with an extraordinary benefit to Hamilton County taxpayers."

To learn more about Hamilton County's Project Gain program, please visit [this link](#).



Hamilton County Public Health Licenses Tattoo and Body Piercing Establishments



Tattoos and body piercings are increasingly popular, yet anyone considering a tattoo or piercing should be aware of health risks and take precautions to avoid serious health side effects.

State law requires all tattoo and body piercing establishments, including those for cosmetic permanent make-up, to be licensed by their local health department. The law is designed to ensure that these procedures are done in a way that minimizes the transmission of communicable diseases and the risk of infection.

People who visit unlicensed facilities (e.g. residential homes, tattoo parties, craigslist advertisements, etc.) face serious health consequences, ranging from local skin infections to blood-borne illnesses such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV. Additionally, employees of tattoo/piercing facilities are required to be trained in first aid, control of transmission of infectious disease, universal precautions against blood-borne pathogens and appropriate aftercare.

Hamilton County Public Health inspects tattoo and body piercing establishments to ensure safe and sanitary conditions are being maintained. The most recent inspection reports can be viewed at [this link](#).

Parents should understand and talk to their children about the consequences of tattoos and body piercings. Not all establishments choose to tattoo those under the age of 18.

The State of Ohio requires a parent or legal guardian to be present when anyone under the age of 18 receives a tattoo or body piercing. Additionally, Hamilton County

When choosing a tattooing or body piercing establishment:

- Request to see a copy of the establishment's current operating license. The license should be readily available and posted at the facility.
- Make sure the establishment looks clean and a restroom facility is available to customers. Look for proper lighting within the establishment.
- Verify that the artist's first aid and blood-borne pathogen training documents are available and up-to-date. Look for previous work done by the artist. Check for pictures on the wall or a binder/portfolio with photos of work that the artist has done.
- Prior to beginning any procedure, the artist should wash his or her hands with soap and water in a nearby sink.
- Make sure the artist uses brand new, disposable needles and razors, ink caps, and a new, clean pair of sterile gloves for each piercing or tattooing client. All items should be used only once.
- The artist should clean the skin before tattooing or piercing.
- Make sure you are given detailed follow up instructions and follow them exactly as written.

Public Health requires a state issued driver's license, state ID or birth certificate for both individuals.

If you have questions about tattoos or body piercings, please contact Hamilton County Public Health at 513-946-7879 or visit www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org.



Department of Environmental Services Helps Hamilton County Recycle Properly



The simple act of recycling can make a world of difference for our environment and community. In 2009, Hamilton County residents recycled 36,587 tons of metal, glass, plastic and paper.

These efforts:

- Conserved enough energy to power 6,689 homes for a year;
- Saved 306,350 trees from being harvested;
- Reduced more greenhouse gas emissions than if every household in Colerain Township (22,418) stopped driving one car for a year;
- Eliminated the need to use 3,123 tons of other natural resources such as iron ore, limestone and coal.

Want to be a part of that? Just use your recycling bin! But before you place items in your recycling bin, make sure you know which materials can be recycled in Hamilton County.

The majority of Hamilton County communities have curbside recycling programs which will accept:

Newspapers
Office paper
Magazines
Phonebooks
Junk mail
Envelopes
Paperboard (cereal boxes, etc.)
Cardboard
Aluminum and steel cans
Aerosol cans (with the tips removed)
Glass bottles and jars
Plastic bottles and jugs

Curbside recycling programs are not able to accept plastic bags or lids, so please avoid putting plastic bags in your recycling bin, and remove all lids when recycling plastic bottles and jugs.

To learn more about recycling in your community, please call 946-7766 or visit www.hamiltoncountyrecycles.org



Caring Families are Needed!



Jacqueline Born October, 1997

Jacqueline's creative streak means she is equally happy making crafts or performing science lab experiments in Science class. Her interests span a wide variety of activities, from skating and riding her bike, to reading, or watching the latest Disney movie.

A bright and personable pre-teen, Jacqueline loves reading fiction, going to the mall, or playing sports and games with her friends. Not only is she talented at school and in sports; on top of all of it, she's also a great singer!

This dynamic, outgoing young woman has a bright future ahead of her and really would like to be adopted by a big family who loves her. Parents who will support Jacqueline's dreams of becoming a nurse would obviously be a great benefit to her dreams.

**To learn more about Jacqueline 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 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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