



Hello Hamilton County

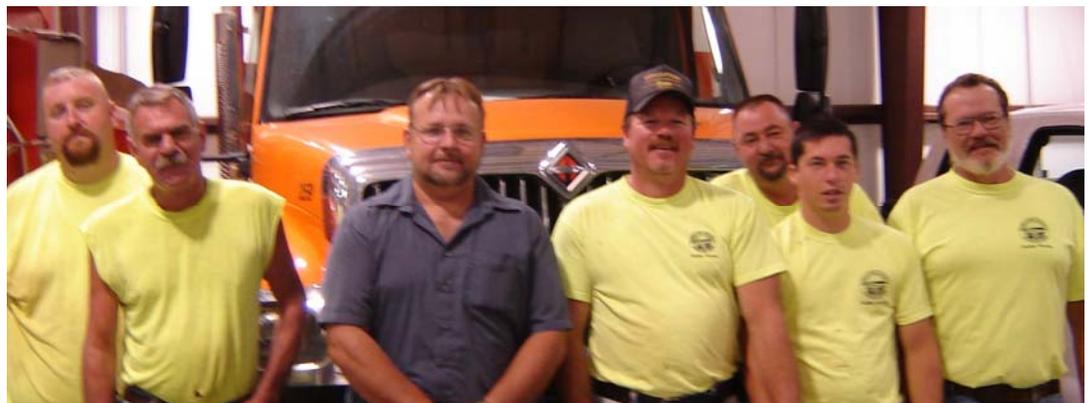
August 31, 2007

E-News for Hamilton County citizens and employees

Quote of the week: "You become successful the moment you begin moving toward a worthwhile goal."

~ Source Unknown

Project Gain Program Encourages Employees to Submit Cost-Saving and Revenue-Enhancing Ideas



Employees from County Facilities and Public Works participated in the Project Gain snow removal program. They include (pictured from l to r): Greg Francis, Ron Westrich, Jeff Wickman, Jack Luensman, Robert K. Sturgill, Jeff Lawrence, Jerry Singleton, Steve Predmore, and Bill Oaks. Not Pictured: Ken Galbraith, David Hoover, Mike Jackson, and Anthony Matre.

In 2005, the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) implemented a program designed to encourage and reward teams of employees who think of and implement ideas that save money or increase revenue. And the program works! Since 2005, Project Gain programs have saved over \$300,000.

How does it work? Project Gain encourages employees to team up to develop and implement cost-saving or revenue-enhancing ideas that go above and beyond their normal scope of duty. The program specifically rewards groups of employees who work together on an idea. The employee teams are eligible to earn a portion of the savings that their implemented idea generates — up to \$1,000 per employee per project.

One example of a successful Project Gain programs involves County Facilities and Public Works. Fourteen employees from these departments worked together to save over \$33,000. They proposed adding snow removal for five county sites to their job duties in the winter of 2005/2006. Previously, the County had contracted for that service at a cost of \$40,000 per year. With Public Works employees clearing snow from parking lots and driveways using trucks and snowblades, and with County Facilities employees removing snow from walkways using handblowers, the cost for the en-

tire winter was only \$6,650. The employees' idea resulted in an 83% reduction in cost! Each employee received a cash award, and the county benefits because of the savings the county will incur each year.

County Administrator, Patrick Thompson says, "Our employees have shown great initiative with their participation in Project Gain and I encourage more employees to get involved. Employees possess a wealth of knowledge about their jobs, and Project Gain provides a great incentive for proposing ideas to lower costs or increase revenues. No idea is too small. Project Gain is a valuable program for Hamilton County."

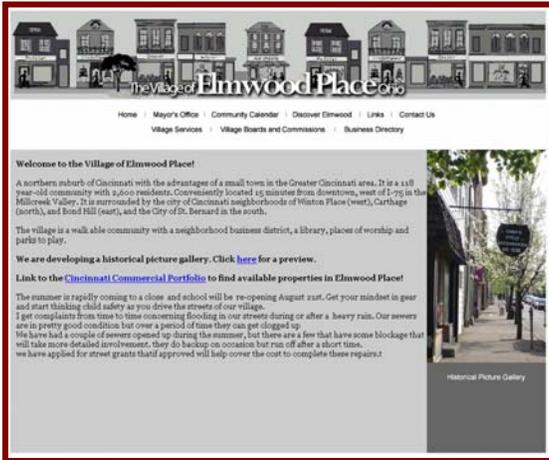
Other county organizations that have successfully participated in Project Gain include the Communications Center, County Personnel, Job and Family Services, Paul Brown Stadium, Planning and Zoning, Probate Court, and Purchasing.

Employees who wish to participate in Project Gain may consult the Board of County Commissioners policy manual Section 3.9 for more information. It's available at this link: http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/Personnel/PDF/BOCCPPM07_10_2007.pdf





Regional Planning Commission’s Project Impact Gets Results for Local Communities



The Village of Elmwood Place’s work with Project Impact resulted in revitalizing efforts that included redesigning the village’s website, pictured above left, and upgrading a playground to meet with OSHA standards, pictured above right.

Increasing vitality is important for communities that are facing declining population and a declining tax base — and Hamilton County can help! Hamilton County’s Regional Planning Commission (RPC) offers Project Impact, which is a no-cost service that assists local Hamilton County communities in revitalizing.

The RPC can work with local communities for six to nine months to help them identify strategies to increase their vitality and to help develop strategic action plans. Then, the community continues the process and implements the plans independently after the RPC’s involvement ends.

Project Impact began with a pilot program in Elmwood Place in 2006. Among the accomplishments in Elmwood Place are an updated zoning code, a first

ever business owners meeting, the addition of street banners (designed by local students), and development of a housing improvement program for exterior home improvements, to name a few. “I’ve been really impressed with RPC staff’s eagerness, dedication, and willingness to go more than the extra mile in helping in any way they can,” expressed Richard Ellison, Mayor of Elmwood Place.

Since that successful pilot program, RPC has worked with Lincoln Heights, Cheviot, Golf Manor, and Fairfax. While each community has different issues, action strategies may be focused on housing, business districts, tools for redevelopment (such as regulations, etc.), community enhancements (streetscape, etc.), or community promotion (how to create a more positive image).

The Mayor of Cheviot, Sam Keller, says of Project Impact, “It has worked extremely well for us. We generated a lot of great ideas and are looking forward to implementing them.” One idea that was developed through Project Impact was a homeowners’ workshop held last spring to address Cheviot’s concerns over the conversion of several homes from owner-occupied to rental. Over 100 people showed up at that meeting to get more information on home buying opportunities in Cheviot.

Hamilton County offers Project Impact to local communities that have a dedicated interest in revitalization. For more information on Project Impact, contact the Regional Planning Commission at 946-4500.



Hamilton County Soil and Water District Assists Landowners in Applying Conservation Practices

The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is responsible for the conservation of natural resources within Hamilton County, Ohio. The SWCD has a special emphasis on soil and water, with a focus on assisting landowners in planning and applying conservation practices on the land.

The SWCD provides technical assistance, educational resources and programs, and other resources such as soil nutrient testing kits and groundwater resource maps.

The SWCD is governed by a volunteer board of five supervisors who are elected to three year terms. The supervisors are responsible for developing an *Annual Plan of Work* and a *Long-Range Plan*. Everyone is invited to attend the SWCD's annual meeting, during which two supervisors will be elected to three year terms. Also during the meeting, there will be a silent auction, fun and games for all ages, displays and awards. If you would like to register to attend the annual meeting, to learn more about the supervisor candidates, or to learn more about the SWCD, please visit their website: www.hcswcd.org.

**You are Invited to Attend
The Hamilton County
Soil & Water Conservation District's
Annual Meeting**

Thursday, September 13
At Windows on the Green in G.E. Park
12110 Princeton Pike,
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246

4:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.:
Voting for Supervisors.
6 p.m.—7 p.m.: Dinner
(Please register in advance for the dinner.)

Please visit www.hcswcd.org for a registration form.

Supportive, Loving Family Is Needed for this Teenager!

A respectful and responsible teenager, Nakeisha likes school and does well in her classes. In addition, Nakeisha enjoys going to church and loves reading fantasy novels. Friendly and outgoing, Nakeisha gets along well with others and especially likes working with younger children.

An active young lady, Nakeisha likes playing basketball and spending time outside after school. The park is one of her favorite places to go. Nakeisha would thrive with a nurturing, supportive church-going family who also enjoy outdoor activities.

This courteous, independent girl would be an asset to any family. Nakeisha will need support with intermittent therapy and coping with loss and separation.



Nakeisha
Born February 22, 1994

**To learn more about Nakeisha or others available for adoption,
please call 513-632-6366
or go to www.hcadopt.org.**



Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency Supports National Preparedness Month 2007



Throughout September, the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) will work with a wide variety of organizations to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness during National Preparedness Month. National Preparedness Month 2007 is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. The goal of the month is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action.

Hamilton County EMA will work with the Ohio Department of Public Safety, local public safety agencies, and the private sector to promote individual

involvement through events and activities. Specifically, Hamilton County EMA will focus on four areas of preparedness:

Week One - September 1-8: Back to School and Ready Kids

Week Two - September 9-15: Business Preparedness and Ready Business

Week Three - September 16-22: Multicultural Preparedness (coinciding with the beginning of Hispanic Heritage month)

Week Four - September 23-30: Home and Family Preparedness (including older and disabled Ohioans, as well as pet owners)

For more information about these events, please contact Dana Schratt at 513-263-8205. For more information on preparedness, please visit www.hamiltoncountyohioema.org or www.ready.gov.



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 Hamilton County citizens and employees about news and events related to our county government and our community in general. You can find current and archived editions on the County's web pages. If you have questions, suggestions, or article submissions, please contact Laura Maus or Eric Stuckey.

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