



Hello Hamilton County

December 2010/
January 2011

E-News for Hamilton County citizens and employees

Quote of the month:

"Whatever you are, be a good one."

~Abraham Lincoln

Outgoing Board of County Commissioners President Todd Portune Discusses the Last Four Years

On January 10, 2011 I will be stepping down as President of the Board of County Commissioners and a new President and Vice President of the Board will be named. It has been an honor and a privilege to have been able to serve the past four years as your Board President for over two and a half years and as Vice President for the balance.

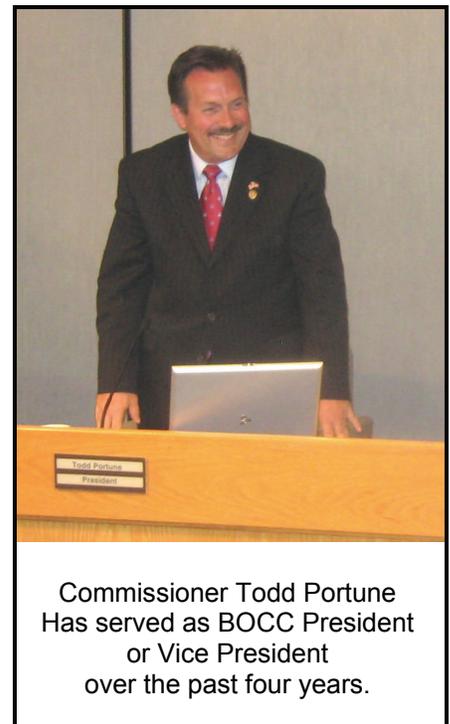
As I do, I offer my thanks to the men and women in every office and operation of county government who work tirelessly each day to provide the best service possible to the people of Hamilton County. The County is a professional operation, dedicated to ensuring that the people who live, work and play in Hamilton County can do so in an environment that is safe, secure and full of opportunity in the future. Over the past four years I believe we took advantage of every opportunity that presented itself, and we created more than a few along the way, to ensure that we succeeded in creating just such an environment of opportunity with a positive future for the people of Hamilton County.

The major priorities of the Board have been in the area of Economic Development and Public Safety. In addressing these priorities we

succeeded in normalizing relations with the City of Cincinnati and getting the long-stalled Banks Project under contract and under way. The project is literally rising up in front of our eyes every day, reconnecting the city to the riverfront, and while being done on time and under budget, is also creating new jobs and employment opportunities along the way.

We established a collaborative with the County First Suburbs Consortium, assisting in community developments and business district revitalization. We completed one convention center project downtown on time and under budget and began another one in Sharonville. We adopted new policies that will provide a better assurance that the dollars we spend on development projects will be able to be spent with local businesses hiring local residents and result in the dollars being re-circulated time and time again in Hamilton County neighborhoods, working to stabilize communities and create more jobs.

We gutted and then re-tooled the Port Development Authority so that it will operate more effectively in Brownfield reclamation; in large scale development projects; and so that it will operate as a port. The



Commissioner Todd Portune
Has served as BOCC President
or Vice President
over the past four years.

latter, coupled with our efforts individually, at the OKI Regional Council of Governments and as a Transportation Improvement District, have elevated the profile of, and the need to improve, the region's freight infrastructure to capitalize on the commerce and flow of goods that the completion of the Panama Canal expansion project will generate for us in 2015.

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Transportation issues took on a major role with the Board. We developed a new transportation policy plan in conjunction with the county's villages, cities and townships and are using that to help guide our transportation investments and strategies. Included in that is the **Eastern Corridor** project that, since we secured \$20 Million in state funding, has now become a reality with definite steps identified toward completion of transit-oriented development and that will pave the way for the first introduction of commuter rail service in the county. In addition, we led the reform of SORTA, the Regional Transit Authority, and appointed a regional Board with a broad mission that is enhancing transit service for the area and outlining much needed service enhancements supporting neighborhoods, jobs and people.

During this time the Board commenced an aggressive "Green" agenda that has successfully improved the quality of our environment; reduced the impact on area landfills; increased recycling opportunities all of which are cleaning our air and water and creating a whole new set of job opportunities in the process.

Among the most exciting of these are the new sustainable green roofs and parking areas at the Zoo; the countywide weatherization programs that are reducing energy consumption while saving money for people to have more to spend in the local economy; introducing new residential recycling opportunities like recycle-bank, a permanent hazardous waste drop off program and an expanded computer, television and electronics recycling program; introducing new commercial recycling of paper products to organics in the form of wood and food waste; to capturing

methane gas at the landfill and generating new and cheap energy heating 7% of the homes in Duke's service area. We collaborated with area businesses, schools and governments to showcase innovations in energy reduction, to creative methods of doing business that reduce energy consumption and reduce the impact on our environment through the Blue-Green Alliance of businesses to the Go Green Challenge.

As challenging as the budget has been we, nonetheless, worked collaboratively with the Sheriff and with local jurisdictions to ensure that public safety and uniformed patrols did not suffer because of budgetary limitations. Sheriff Leis and Chief Donovan have been remarkable and a real joy to work with. They have been cooperative and creative in working to craft solutions, such as the uniformed officer supervised inmate litter patrols demonstrate, to expand patrol services in neighborhoods while defraying costs and taking advantage of available labor in the process.

In the area of Emergency Management, we have introduced a state of the art weather and emergency alert warning system that is proving itself every day in providing countywide and localized warnings and alerts from tornado warnings to amber alerts that have successfully located people and helped to save lives.

Despite the successes above, the last four years have been no picnic for any of us. We have presided over county government at a time when the local economy suffered the largest decline in revenues and jobs since the Great Depression. We have balanced budgets while presiding over a greater than 25% reduction in revenues and in full time county positions.

Notwithstanding those challenges, I am proud of how we responded and found a way to pitch-in, together, to get things done. In every area of county government under Board supervision we are doing more with less. We have consolidated positions and departments; collaborated internally and with other bodies of government and in short, have found a way to maintain the same levels of service without interruption despite extreme budget challenges and a loss of about a quarter of the labor force.

In closing, it has been an exciting and challenging time. Despite the reductions in revenues we have built up our reserve to a 10% level and will be initiating a request to upgrade the county's bond rating that was lost because of the financial state of affairs inherited four years ago. Commissioners David Pepper and Greg Hartmann and their staffs have been a joy to work with.

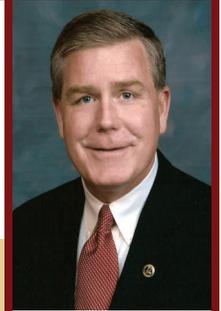
I am proud of the work everyone has done and the way you have responded to the challenges at hand. Hamilton County is comprised of consummate professionals. None less so than my staff [Kathy Binns and Lisa Daria]; the Clerk and Deputy Clerk to the Commission [Jacqueline Panioto and Deloris Sinclair] and our 6th Floor professional management team [Administrator Patrick Thompson, Jeff Aluotto, Christian Sigman, Moira Weir, Bernice Walker, Lisa Webb, Karla Plank, Rob Wagner, Jim Cundiff, John Bruggen, Lisa Anderson, Karen McFarland, Rob Wagner, John Deatrack, Karen Groppe and Terry Evans]. It has been a privilege to have served in a leadership position with all of you and I am looking forward to continuing to work on your behalf.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season. I am looking forward to working with all of you in the New Year.



Patrick's Perspective

Hamilton County Continues to Move Forward



**Patrick
Thompson,
Hamilton County
Administrator**

As the year draws to a close, it's a great time to reflect on where we've been in 2010 and where we're going in 2011.

I'm pleased that Hamilton County achieved some great successes in 2010. Guided by our Management Work Plan, we focused on four priorities this year:

- Economic development;
- Protecting at-risk populations;
- Financial management;
- Criminal justice and public safety.

We achieved significant successes in each area. Highlights include:

Economic Development:

- Progress continued in 2010 on The Banks development. Construction continues, people have signed leases to live in the new development, and the first major business tenant should be signed by the end of the year. The project is on-schedule and under-budget.
- Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) grant funds of \$24 million dollars are being used to revitalize 11 communities within Hamilton County.
- Clean Ohio Revitalization Grant Funds of \$1.8 million will enable the County and the City of Lockland to clean the former Stearns and Foster site, making the land viable for new development.
- The County provided funding in the 2011 budget for the Port Authority, Hamilton County

Development Company, and the Chamber of Commerce to advance the County's economic development efforts.

Protecting At-Risk Populations

- Job and Family Services (JFS) obtained grant funding to be one of 11 communities in the U.S. to pilot the Crossover Youth Practice Model Initiative. This program will help children who are involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.
- Hamilton County has received grant funding to support the expansion of jail diversion programs for veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and other trauma-related disorders. The program will assist veterans who suffer from disorders and become involved with the criminal justice system by providing services related to prevention, criminal justice intervention and diversion, and long-term recovery and support.
- Hamilton County's Emergency Preparedness Collaborative Team developed a disaster recovery plan which will meet the needs of vulnerable populations in times of disaster. The plan addresses helping vulnerable populations understand the nature of an emergency, respond appropriately, and communicate their needs to the response community.

Financial Management

- Used 2010 funds responsibly, meeting needs despite the budget being reduced by \$60 million since the 2008 budget. Remained under budget and met revenue projections.
- Approved a 2011 general fund budget that is balanced, responsible, and spends \$2.6 million less than the 2010 general fund budget.
- Approved a solution to address the projected deficit in the Stadium Fund in 2011 and 2012.
- Moody's Investor Service re-affirmed the County's A2 bond rating.

Criminal Justice/Public Safety

- Received almost \$750,000 in Second Chance Act Funding for the Hamilton County Offender Reentry Initiative Project to address jail overcrowding and recidivism.
- Provided additional funding in the 2011 general fund budget to eliminate the need for the Sheriff to reduce staffing of patrol and corrections officers.

As we look ahead to 2011, I anticipate continued progress and success in the areas that matter most to Hamilton County.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Hamilton County's success this year!



A Message from Commissioner David Pepper

Dear Hamilton County Family,

I wanted to take a moment to let you know that it has been a true pleasure and honor to work along side of you for four years.

Needless to say, it has been a challenging time for everybody — challenges far larger than I could have imagined when I was sworn into this office four years ago.

But the County team, at all levels and in all departments and agencies, has persevered through these tough times. And with many of the toughest decisions and sacrifices behind us, the County is now in a far stronger position than most of our peer governments — and than we were just four years ago — to weather current and future economic storms while still delivering the high quality of service our constituents expect. Together, our current County workforce has positioned the County well for future growth and prosperity. Thank you for that service.

Along the way, I am deeply thankful for the partnerships we've formed, the progress we've made in so many areas, and the lifelong friends I've made while serving here.

Thank you again for a great four years. Wishing you and your family the warmest of holidays,

David Pepper



Commissioner David Pepper and
Chief of Staff Bridget Doherty

Hamilton County Website ~ A Helpful Resource

Hamilton County residents can access a tremendous amount of helpful services and information in one convenient location:
www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov.

Using the County's website, you can:

- Search property records;
- Purchase a dog license — you'll want to do this before the January 31st deadline!
- Apply for a marriage license;
- Find out about upcoming parole hearings, and submit comments either in favor of or against parole;
- Search court records;
- Subscribe to county-wide emergency alert notifications. . . and more!



Check out the County's website today:

www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov



Hamilton County Job and Family Services' 4th Annual Mass Adoption Ceremony

Some had happy tears glistening from their eyes. Others took lots of photos to remember the moment. But, without a doubt, every person in the room was wearing a smile during Hamilton County Job and Family Services' (JFS) mass adoption ceremony on Friday, November 19.

Seven children were officially adopted into three different families during the agency's fourth annual mass adoption ceremony at Hamilton County's Probate Court.

At any given time, Hamilton County has about 850 foster children in care, with about 200 awaiting adoption. More than 70 children have been adopted through Hamilton County this year. Throughout the year, and even more so in November during National Adoption Month, JFS workers aim to bring awareness that adoptive parents are needed to care for these youth who just want a permanent place to call home.

National Adoption Month is a month set aside each year to raise awareness about the adoption of children and youth from foster care. In total, more than 30,000 children have been adopted from foster care on National Adoption Day. In Hamilton County, 22 finalizations have occurred during the mass adoption ceremonies from 2007 through this year.



During the mass adoption ceremony, five children, ranging in age from 3 to 12 years old, were adopted by the foster family that has cared for them since 2008. The loving family has provided a structured, nurturing environment for the five, but was unsure they were capable of making a lifetime commitment to so many. However, as they grew attached to the children and saw the bonding that was taking place between themselves and the kids, the foster parents consulted their older biological children about the decision. The biological children agreed to help, and, together, they will care for the children, whom they have grown to love.

The five siblings have two older siblings who were placed with another foster family and now have been adopted by that family. The two adoptive families plan to keep the children involved in each other's lives so the biological bonds are not broken.

Two other foster families adopted during the ceremony:

- A family that took in a girl shortly after her birth in March 2009. This family maintained a good relationship with the biological mother, making sure she stayed involved in her daughter's life. Eventually the biological mother surrendered her birth rights, expressing a desire that her daughter be adopted by the foster family. She joins three older brothers - ages 16, 14 and 10 - who plan to look out for her. She's the daughter her new parents have longed for, and she lights up whenever they enter the room.
- A family that has cared for a now 11-year-old boy for the past year. Throughout that time, they've developed an incredible bond and neither the parents nor the boy can imagine life without each other.

**For information about becoming a foster parent or adoptive parent,
please visit www.hckids.org**



Hamilton County Job and Family Services Honored Again as Hunger Champion

The Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services (HCJFS) is the only department in the state of Ohio and one of only 30 in the country to be recognized for providing the community with outstanding service in its food assistance program. HCJFS was honored last year as a Hunger Champion, as well.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services Kevin Concannon named Hamilton County a Bronze Hunger Champion in the 2010 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Hunger Champion Awards. The awardees demonstrate exemplary service conducting outreach activities and assisting eligible clients with obtaining nutrition benefits.

"Putting healthy food within reach for low-income Americans has never been more important," Concannon said. "These local offices have gone the extra mile to reach out to and educate needy members of their communities about the nutrition benefits of SNAP and how to apply. Through innovative strategies and creative partnerships, these honorees serve as models for local offices across the country."



In the HCJFS A&D Building, employees have found innovative ways to serve over 130,000 people who need food assistance.

HCJFS Director Moira Weir said she is especially proud the department has remained innovative in lean times. Despite losing half its workforce over the past two years, the agency has managed to serve far more people. The agency's food assistance recipients have jumped from 113,000 to 134,000 over the past year. Five years ago, there were only 76,000 recipients.

"Our top priority is ensuring the citizens of Hamilton County receive the assistance they need, and we won't compromise

on that," said Weir. "This award is a nice recognition of our efforts and commitment to this community."

HCJFS initiatives have included:

- Finding innovative ways to serve the increasing number of people needing food stamps.
- Developing a structured appointment system in-house to improve the flow of traffic in HCJFS lobbies and, ultimately, to improve the level of service clients receive. It's now quicker and easier for clients to understand where to go for service, and Eligibility Technicians can accept appointments and begin working with consumers in a more efficient manner.

Hamilton County Featured As an ARCHIBUS Success Story

The Hamilton County Facilities' Department's use of the ARCHIBUS comprehensive real estate, infrastructure, and facilities management system is featured as an ARCHIBUS success story. The article cites Hamilton County's use of ARCHIBUS to achieve space, safety, and environmental goals.

To read the Success Story article, please visit this link:
http://archibiz.archibus.com/pdf/dynamic/success_story/147_1.pdf



Commissioner Hartmann Presents Keep Cincinnati Beautiful Awards

On Thursday, November 18, Commissioner Greg Hartmann presented awards to community volunteers and organizations at Keep Cincinnati Beautiful's 32nd annual Clean & Beautiful Awards Ceremony. The awards honor citizens and organizations that volunteer countless hours cleaning up and beautifying Cincinnati's streets, parks and vacant lots.

Commissioner Hartmann presented Business District/Gateway Project awards to three organizations. They include:

- First Place Award: Clifton Town Meeting — City Barn Community Garden
- Second place award: College Hill Gardeners — Clean and Colorful College Hill Project
- Third Place Award: Helping Hands, Sedamsville — Sedamsville Gateway 2010 Project.



"We all know that clean neighborhoods are an important part of keeping our neighborhoods safe," said Commissioner Hartmann. "These volunteers and organizations work tirelessly to improve and invest in communities across Hamilton County, and I'm proud to support and recognize their efforts."

Hamilton County Public Health Now Issues Birth Certificates for Births at Any Ohio Hospital

Hamilton County Public Health is now able to issue birth certificates for persons born at any hospital in Ohio. The Ohio Department of Health adopted a central issuance policy today, simplifying the process of birth certificate requests across Ohio.

Previously, customers seeking birth certificates had to work with the local health department in which the birth took place. With multiple health departments in southwest Ohio, this caused customers much confusion and frustration.

"This is a significant improvement in customer service and it's the right thing to do for customers seeking birth certificates," said Tim Ingram, Health Commissioner. "We no longer have to turn

customers away and force them to drive all over town to the jurisdiction where the birth took place."

Certified copies of birth records are \$24 and may be obtained in person, by mail or online. Hamilton County Public Health's Office of Vital Records also offers genealogical research by appointment.

For more information about vital records, visit www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org.





Office of Small Business Development Winter Update



Participants in the Office of Small Business Development's Outreach session network and share ideas with each other during a break from presentations.

The Hamilton County Office of Small Business Development (SBD) has had a busy and successful year! While striving to achieve its mission, the office has done great work with The Banks Project, sponsored an outreach session, and continues to work with vendors to get them registered with the SBD.

The Banks Project

Hamilton County and the City of Cincinnati have an agreement for economic inclusion for The Banks Project, and the SBD office is one of the key players helping to achieve the goals outlined in that agreement. The SBD is working in cooperation with the City of Cincinnati Office of Contract Compliance, the inclusion consultant, the construction manager, and the developer, and they are exceeding participation goals.

As of October 25, 2010, approximately \$6.4 million or 35.3% of the construction dollars have been paid to certified Small Business Enterprises (SBEs). The SBE participation goal for the locally funded construction is 30%. Additionally, the project is receiving state and/or federal funding and Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) goals have been set by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) per bid package. The Banks Project's results are illustrated in the following table:

Bid Package #	ODOT DBE	Actual DBE Participation	DBE Dollars
5	8.0%	12.0%	\$746,386
6	5.0%	5.3%	\$595,296
7	8.0%	11.7%	\$676,741

The SBEs, DBEs and other contractors working on The Banks are positively impacting Hamilton County employment and are assisting in our economic growth.

The prime contractors have been instrumental in recognizing and adhering to the various goals for participation associated with this public-private multi-use development along the Ohio River. Prime contractors with closed out contracts that are meeting or exceeding goals as of October 25 include:

- HGC Construction Co.,
- Baker Concrete Construction, Inc.,
- Richard Goettle, Inc.,
- J & B Steel Erectors, Inc.,
- Maxim Crane Works, L.P.,
- Gateway Concrete Forming Services, Inc.,
- Nelson Stark Company,
- Ginter Electrical Contractors, LLC,
- Trend Construction.

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Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the project team and the contractors, goals are being exceeded for SBE and DBE participation for The Banks Project construction.

2010 Outreach

On October 15, 2010, SBD presented an outreach event to registered small businesses called, "How Hamilton County Conducts Business." The Hamilton County Business Center (HCBC), a division of the Hamilton County Development Company, hosted the event.

Approximately 40 small business representatives attended the free, half-day event. Amy Hoh, Hamilton County Purchasing Director, and Tim Grabenstein, Hamilton County Risk Manager, discussed bidding, bonding, and insurance requirements. Jim Murphy of Murphy Supply Company and Frank Peluso, Sr. of EDI, Incorporated presented "Success Stories." They shared information about their businesses and the strategies they used to become County contractors. Other speakers included Bruce Bufford of The SuperJobs Center and Patrick Longo of HCBC. Both entities serve as valuable resources to individuals and businesses.

SBD worked in cooperation with Purchasing and HCBC to present this outreach event, which received many favorable reviews from the small business representatives in attendance.

Variety of Businesses Registered with the SBD

The SBD encourages small businesses to register with the SBD. Registered small businesses get direct notice of outreach events designed to provide a better understanding of how Hamilton County makes purchases. In addition, their information is included in a database that is distributed to County purchasing agents on a monthly basis. All purchasing agents are encouraged to use small businesses

Approximately 300 small businesses are currently registered with SBD. The database of registered businesses is available at [this link](#) on the County's website. A diverse range of vendors is registered:

- 32.5% - Construction
- 31.1% - Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
- 11.4% - Wholesale Trade
- 6.40% - Administrative and Support Services

The remaining businesses represent the following 11 categories:

1. Manufacturing
2. Retail Trade
3. Transportation and Warehousing
4. Information
5. Financial Investments and Related Activities
6. Rental and Leasing Services
7. Waste Management and Remediation Services
8. Educational Services
9. Ambulatory Health Care Services
10. Amusement, Gambling and Recreation Industries
11. Food Services and Drinking Places

Hamilton County defines a small business as a business concern that is independently owned and operated and meets the detailed definitions or size standards of the Small Business Administration (www.sba.gov.size). The categories indicated correspond with the SBA Table of Small Business Size Standards and the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Codes.

For more information about the Office of Small Business Development, please contact the Director of the Office of Small Business Development:

Bernice L. Walker, Esq.

Call 513-946-4323

or e-mail Bernice.walker@hamilton-co.org.



Online Application Makes it Easier For Ohio Residents to Apply for Food, Medical, and Cash Assistance

Low-income Ohio residents who need help with food, medical needs or daily expenses now have an easier path to assistance, through a new website with an online application.

The Web site, <http://ODJFSBenefits.ohio.gov>, comes at a time when a record number of Hamilton County residents are seeking food or medical assistance. The economic downturn of the past few years has tens of thousands of residents either out of work or forced to take lower-paying jobs that leave them scrambling to make ends meet.

"We now help about one in six Hamilton County residents with food or medical assistance," said Hamilton County Job and Family Services Director Moira Weir. "Many of them are working parents once forced to decide between paying the light bill or putting food on the table for their children. With our help, they have been able to stretch their paychecks a bit further.

"This website makes it even easier for people in difficult circumstances to reach out for help," she continued. "We are excited because it improves both customer service and efficiency, two things all government units should strive to do."

In addition to allowing Ohio residents to apply online, the new website features a calculator for new applicants to determine if they might be eligible for help and

a tool for current recipients to report changes to their case information. The website provides access 24 hours a day from any computer with Internet access. After an individual fills out the online application, the paperwork is automatically forwarded to a county caseworker for review. The process is quick, easy and secure. Users who have difficulty with the application can call Hamilton County Job and Family Services at 513-946-1000 for assistance.

The website is a collaborative effort between the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks. A grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture helped fund the site's development.

"I've always said that ODJFS must strive to 'meet people where they're at,'" said ODJFS Director Douglas Lumpkin. "This new Web site is an excellent example of that. It will allow us to improve our level of customer service. Because of the recession, many Ohioans are applying for assistance for the first time. Many of them are used to new ways of doing business and are more than happy to apply for services online. Innovations like



<http://ODJFSBenefits.ohio.gov> help expedite assistance to those who need it most."

In Hamilton County, approximately 133,000 citizens receive food assistance and 155,000 citizens receive medical assistance from the Department of Job and Family Services. About one-third of those people have never received aid before – or at least not in the past five years – and ended up seeking assistance because of the faltering economy.

"Whether they are fortunate enough to access this site from their own homes or they visit a friend's or the library, this saves them a trip downtown, gas money and parking costs, not to mention any wait that might accompany their visit," Weir said. "One of my goals for this agency is to be more accessible to the citizens of Hamilton County, and this definitely makes it easier to do business with us."



Recycling and Solid Waste District's Recycling Awards Honors Outstanding Recycling



Commissioner Todd Portune welcomed everyone to the Recycling Awards Ceremony.

On Tuesday, November 16, the Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District's 6th annual Recycling Awards Ceremony took place at the Mill Race Lodge in Winton Woods. The Recycling Awards acknowledge outstanding recycling achievements by individuals, schools, communities and businesses in Hamilton County.

The 2010 Recycling Award recipients included:

Friend of Recycling Award: John Duke

Outstanding School Recycling Program Award: Wyoming City School District

Outstanding Recycling Educator Award: Gloria Lane, James N. Gamble Montessori High School

Best Community Recycling Program Award (>10,000 population): City of Montgomery

Best Community Recycling Program Award (<10,000 population): Village of Mariemont

Most Improved Community Recycling Program Award: Village of Evendale

Excellence in Public Recycling Award: Forest Hills School District

Go Green Challenge Award: Cincinnati Northside Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation

Go Green Challenge Award: Messer Construction Company

Go Green Challenge Award: Reliable Castings

Go Green Challenge Award: Rockdale Temple

Recycling at Work Program of the Year Award: Siemens Industry, Inc.

Industrial Award for Recycling Achievement: KPB Commercial Printing

The Interchange Business of the Year Award: Jones the Florist

Outstanding Recycling in a Multi-Family Residence Award: Centennial Station, North American Properties

John Van Volkenburgh Award for Recycling Innovation: Corporation for Findlay Market

Congratulations to all of the winners, and thank you for making a difference by recycling!



Hamilton County and Butler County Businesses Invited to Participate in Pollution Prevention (P2) Internship Program

The Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District, the Butler County Recycling and Solid Waste District, and TechSolve, Inc., are partnering together to coordinate the 2011 Southwest Ohio

Pollution Prevention (P2) Internship Program. Starting immediately, project proposals from businesses located in Hamilton and Butler Counties that are interested in hosting a qualified college student intern this summer are being accepted. The deadline to submit applications is February 1, 2011.

The P2 Internship Program trains and hosts up to four interns at selected companies in Hamilton and Butler



counties. The Districts fund 75 percent of the internship and the chosen companies match 25 percent. The goal of the internship program is to give businesses fresh and innovative ideas about pollution prevention,

save companies money, give students an edge in obtaining full-time employment after graduation, and create and keep technically skilled jobs in Ohio.

The program has been in existence since 2004. Past participants have included Siemens Industry, Inc.; General Mills; 2trg; HB Fuller Company; Lanxess; Formica Corporation; MillerCoors LLC; Tedia Company; and Hamilton Caster.

**To download the business application
or to learn more about the program, call 513-946-7734**

or visit <http://www.hamiltoncountyclecyls.org/index.php?page=pollution-prevention-internship-program>.

Soil and Water Conservation District Recognizes The Best in Conservation 2010

Each year, Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District names the most outstanding individuals and companies that practice conservation. The 2010 winners are as follows:

Outstanding Partnership Award: The Regional Stormwater Collaborative

Water Quality Partner of the Year: Bob Minges

Conservation Teacher of the Year: Lucy Ward

Conservation Award: Glenbridge Manor Stream Relocation

Urban Conservation Award: Western Ridge Project—Good Samaritan Hospital



For information about each, please read the Conservation Spotlight newsletter at this link:

<http://www.hcswcd.org/newsltr/spotlite/2010Winter.pdf>



WeTHRIVE! Sm Community Wellness in Action!

Community partners, businesses, churches, schools, elected officials – *and people like you* – are joining WeTHRIVE!, a movement set on making wellness a reality for each community in Hamilton County.

WeTHRIVE! focuses on changing policies, systems, and environments to reduce obesity and chronic diseases. This means creating community access to healthy eating and physical activity, while decreasing tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke.

But WeTHRIVE! offers more than just sound bites and well-meaning advice to throw out the cigarettes and eat your veggies. We've done our homework and know that in some communities there are true and long-standing barriers to achieving healthy lifestyles. WeTHRIVE! provides you with the tools and resources to confront and overcome these barriers.

The WeTHRIVE! initiative promotes physical activity and healthy eating, reduced tobacco use

and exposure, and builds community capacity for systems, environmental, and policy change aimed to reduce the burden of disease related to obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular illness.

This project is coordinated by Hamilton County Public Health along with partnerships from Cincinnati Children's, YMCA of Greater Cincinnati, Nutrition Council, the Center for Closing the Health Gap, school districts, communities and residents.

Visit www.WatchUsThrive.org today to join the WeTHRIVE! movement.



Pharmaceutical Collection Event Success: Over 2,000 Pounds Collected

The Southwest Ohio DROP (Dispose Responsibly of Pharmaceuticals) Collaboration organized an event to provide residents with a safe and environmentally friendly disposal method for unwanted and expired medication.

The regional event was held on Saturday, November 13 as part of the American Medicine Chest Challenge and national day for proper disposal. The Collaboration

organized 22 drop-off sites throughout Clermont, Hamilton, and Warren County.

The results are in! The event involved over 120 volunteers, including 70 police officers and firefighters. Hundreds of residents throughout the region participated, and officials collected over 2,000 pounds during the four hour event!

Southwest Ohio DROP, developed by Annette Meagher, Hamilton

County Soil and Water Conservation District, is a regional collaboration of local health, safety and environmental professionals working to reduce the amount of stored and improperly disposed of pharmaceuticals that enter our environment.

For more information, please contact Annette Meagher, Hamilton County Soil and Water Public Relations Specialist at 513-316-5008.



U.S. EPA Celebrates 10th Anniversary of National Clean Diesel Campaign with Hamilton County



Gina McCarthy, Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, U.S. EPA; Ken Edgell, Environmental Administrative Coordinator, Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services; and Margo Oge, Director, Office of Transportation and Air Quality, U.S. EPA.

On October 19, 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) celebrated its 10th anniversary of the National Clean Diesel Campaign by hosting a conference titled, “Clean Diesel 10: A Decade of Action – Working Together for Cleaner Air” in Washington, D.C. At the event, the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services (HCDOES), represented by Ken Edgell, was presented with an Award of Recognition from Gina McCarthy, U.S. EPA’s Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, for its early leadership and involvement in the National Clean Diesel Campaign.

In 2003, HCDOES applied for and won a \$120,000 grant from the USEPA to retrofit 20 school buses with clean exhaust technology and to fuel 74 buses with biodiesel, a cleaner-burning alternative fuel. HCDOES was one of the first organizations throughout the country to be awarded a diesel retrofit grant from the National Clean Diesel Campaign.

After winning the grant in 2003, HCDOES established

the Southwest Ohio Clean Diesel Campaign (SOCDC) whose goal is to reduce emissions from diesel-powered school buses, trucks, and non-road equipment in Southwest Ohio. The SOCDC works with school districts, bus companies and other government departments in Southwest Ohio to secure funding to retrofit their diesel-powered equipment with emission reduction devices or to replace them with cleaner-burning equipment.

To date, the SOCDC has secured 11 additional grants, totaling \$1,664,000; retrofitted 519 school buses; replaced 63 old buses with new, cleaner-burning diesel-powered buses; and removed 16,000 pounds of pollutants from the air.

For more information about the SOCDC, visit www.hcdoes.org/CleanDieselCampaign/SOCDC.htm.

To learn more about the USEPA’s Clean Diesel Campaign, visit www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/.



Public Invited to Attend Hamilton County Law Library Seminar

The Hamilton County Law Library invites members of the public to attend this seminar.

You and the Legal System: BANKRUPTCY

Speaker:
Thomas J. Geygan, Sr.

Friday, January 21, 2011
12:00 noon

Hamilton County Law Library
County Courthouse
1000 Main Street, 6th floor, Cincinnati, OH

Topics covered will include:

- How to Decide If You Need Bankruptcy
- How to Find an Attorney to Assist You
- Different Types of Bankruptcy and How to Choose
- Timeline on a Bankruptcy

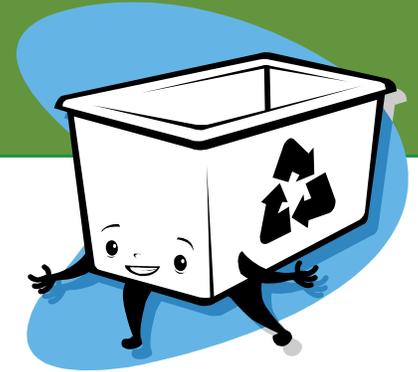
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Please call 513.946.5300 to reserve a seat.

This program is brought to you as a public service by the Hamilton County Law Library,
in conjunction with the Cincinnati Bar Association's Lawyer Referral Service.





Hamilton County's Recycling Rate Reaches 7-Year High



The Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District (District) is pleased to announce that Hamilton County has exceeded the State's mandated waste reduction goals by achieving a recycling rate of 54.66% in 2009.

The recycling rate is the percentage of material that was recycled compared with the total amount of waste generated. Hamilton County exceeded the state residential/commercial sector recycling goals and the state industrial sector recycling goals.

Residential/Commercial Recycling Rate:	34.14% (State goal is 25%)
Industrial Recycling Rate:	82.31% (State goal is 66%)
Total Recycling Rate:	54.66%

The total recycling rate includes all recycling activities in Hamilton County from residential curbside recycling and paper recycling in offices to recycling of industrial materials. Every sector of Hamilton County has contributed to this success.

"The people and businesses of Hamilton County are providing the State of Ohio with an example of extraordinary leadership about how every single one of us can help clean up our planet simply by reducing, reusing and recycling the materials we use every single day," said Commissioner Todd Portune. "We are doing those simple things at levels that surpass everyone's expectations, saving money and energy along the way."

The Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District is responsible for solid waste and recycling planning in the county. This includes encouraging and implementing recycling and waste reduction programs for communities and industry. The District would like to thank the residents and businesses in Hamilton County and encourages all sectors of the public to continue with their recycling efforts.

For more information about the District or how to recycle in Hamilton County, visit www.hamiltoncountyrecycles.org.

**Recycle
Your
Christmas
Tree.**



**For information
about how you can recycle
your Christmas tree, please visit:**

<http://www.hamiltoncountyrecycles.org/index.php?page=recycle-your-christmas-tree>



HEMI Program Needs New Mentors

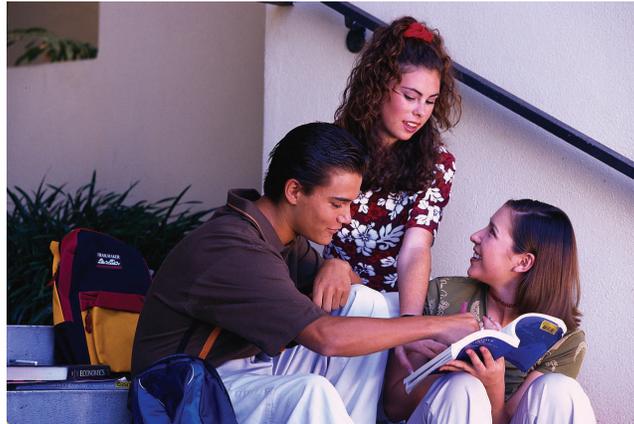
When asked what they think when they hear the word “mentor,” the current students in the Higher Education Mentoring Initiative (HEMI) provided various answers.

“A friend.” “Knowledge and wisdom.” “Help.” “Learning.”

But overall, they agreed their mentors have been supportive, understanding and caring. Do you know someone who represents the description above? Someone who you think could make a difference in the life of a foster youth? Then he or she just may make a good mentor.

HEMI supports Hamilton County foster youth with the help of a mentor as they graduate from high school and transition to higher learning. The program provides foster youth a long-term academic mentoring relationship that begins in high school and is focused on awareness of and preparation for post-secondary education and training.

The program includes partnerships with the University



of Cincinnati, Cincinnati State Technical and Community College and Great Oaks Career Campuses.

Last year, the mentors helped the 13 seniors in the program graduate high school and pursue a higher form of learning. Many of them are now enrolled in some type of higher education program.

The HEMI classes of 2009 and 2010 included seven college freshmen, 13 seniors, 18 juniors and three sophomores.

Now, with many more foster youth in need of a mentor, a new class of mentors is needed.

“As HEMI approaches the second year of the program,

we’re continually seeking adults to spend roughly two hours a week to mentor a foster child through their junior and senior year of high school and through their pursuit of a college degree,” said HEMI Program Coordinator Annie Dick Schellinger.

The new group of mentors will take part in an initial training in January or February to learn more about certain aspects of helping the students pursue higher education, such as college applications/essays, financial assistance, entrance exams and more.

Once training has been completed, the mentors will meet their mentees in March. The plan is for the mentors to be introduced to juniors so the mentors can work with them throughout their senior year.

Hamilton County employees can become mentors as part of the HEMI program, if they have no professional relationship with the children and mentor during their personal time.

**For more information contact Annie Dick Schellinger,
HEMI program coordinator, at dickar@email.uc.edu or 513-556-4368.**



Hamilton County Surplus Auction: Great Items—Low Prices!



Visit the Hamilton County Surplus Auction to see a huge variety of items for sale with really low opening bids being accepted. Starting bid on a piano is only \$75! Starting bid on a lot of five wooden desks is only \$10! Starting bid on some laptop computers is \$5.

See what kinds of bargains you can find on all sorts of used equipment, furniture, and vehicles. Visit www.hamiltoncountyohioauction.com



Caring Families are Needed!



Elijah
Born July, 2003

Creativity courses through Elijah's blood, and his favorite way to pass time is with a blank canvas and some crayons, chalk or paint. His drawings are incredible for a child his age. This imaginative little boy doesn't just use his creative thinking for his art though, he also likes to play pretend with his action figures, especially Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader.

Elijah also likes playing video games that involve driving, and he is especially excited when he has someone to play along with him. He likes going outside, and a trip to the Zoo is always a big highlight for him.

Elijah is looking forward to having a family that will love and care for him, and keep him forever. He would fit right into a calm family where he would have older siblings to look up to.

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



Caring Families are Needed!



**Maxwell,
October 1997**

**Zachary,
October 1997**



Many people are surprised when they meet twins and find out that they actually have very distinct personalities and different interests. The same can be said of Maxwell and Zachary, a delightful set of twin brothers who get along well, but who are definitely unique.

Maxwell excels at football and Tae Kwon Do. In fact, he is very close to earning his yellow belt. He's got a great smile and will bestow it on anyone who allows him to play his favorite video games ... which are pretty much any PlayStation games. Maxwell is quite smart and does well in school, particularly in his favorite subjects of Math and Science.

Basketball and football are Zachary's best sports – but only to play. He doesn't really enjoy watching sports on TV, and he's never been to a sporting event of any kind. He's happiest when he's jumping on the trampoline or mastering a new video game. Zachary absolutely loves the challenge of learning a new game. He's great at telling jokes and will leave your sides splitting at a moment's notice.

A patient and kind family that can meet the energy demands of these teens, while still providing a loving, stable, and calm environment, would do wondrous things for Maxwell and Zachary.

**To learn more about Maxwell, Zachary, 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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