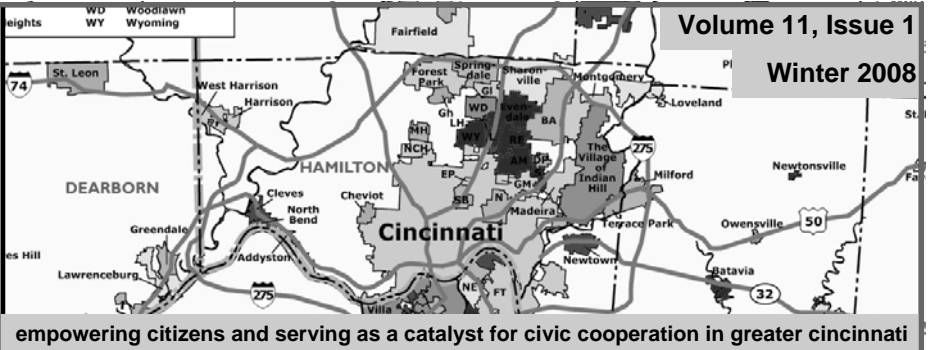


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citizens for civic renewal



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Bortz/DeWine Effort Bears Fruit

Fourteen jurisdictions within Hamilton County have identified approximately \$500,000 worth of potential savings as a result of their participation in the Government Cooperation and Efficiency Project (GCEP).



The GCEP is an initiative designed to help local communities improve service delivery and control costs through cross-jurisdictional cooperation, sharing of services, and possible service delivery consolidation. City of Cin-

cinnati Councilman Chris Bortz and Hamilton County Commissioner Pat DeWine were the early conveners of the project. Hamilton County Commissioners collaborated with Cincinnati City Council and the Cincinnati Business Committee to provide funding for this project.

Truly a collaborative effort, the GCEP has a steering committee chaired by former state Senator Richard Finan and George Schaefer, Chairman of the Fifth Third Bancorp, with staff support from Management Partners Inc. The Planning Partnership of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission is helping coordinate, too. All 50 local governments in Hamilton County, including cities, villages and townships — plus the County itself, were included in this effort.

The fourteen jurisdictions who have identified the potential \$500,000 in savings anticipate these savings as a result of sharing

(Continued on page 2)

CCR Tapped for Agenda 360 Community Engagement

Agenda 360, the effort to develop an action plan for the four Ohio counties in Greater Cincinnati has contracted with CCR for community engagement services. The scope of services includes holding twenty forums throughout the four counties to capture a representative sample of the diverse demographic and geographic composition of this area.

At these forums CCR is using small group techniques to help participating citizens brainstorm and prioritize signature projects or initiatives that can make Southwest Ohio

an even better place to live, work and play.

CCR has already completed many of these forums in geographies as varied as Middletown and Avondale and with demographics ranging from the Appalachians to Hispanics.

The Agenda 360 Community Engagement work has also offered a great opportunity to promote CCR throughout the region, hone our skills in community engagement, and grow the organization. Through this contract CCR has also hired a new employee, Jody Weber, a planner from UC's DAAP program. For more information about Agenda 360 go to www.cincinnati360.com

Bortz/DeWine

(Continued from page 1)

services and/or making bulk purchases for items and services such as fuel purchases, salt purchases, street sign/markings, and fire hydrant maintenance. Since these savings were anticipated, another 24 jurisdictions within Hamilton County have been engaged in the GCEP initiative and are pursuing savings for their taxpayers - So even more savings are likely!

During the first phase of this project, groups met several times to generate ideas and discuss implementation of service sharing opportunities. Twelve specific projects, which could result in cost savings and/or improved service, were identified for detailed implementation planning. That phase concluded in December. Phase 2 offers a good opportunity for continuing

this work and developing even more economies in the delivery of local government services.

Ron Miller, Executive Director of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission says, "The success of this project is a result of local government participants who convened in numerous small group dialogues and voluntarily explored possibilities for cooperating in the delivery of services, a key ingredient to the success of our local communities and our region."

CCR is represented on the steering committee by John Frank, Jr. CCR's BEST (Building Economic Strength Together) Task Force is supporting the effort

For more information about the GCEP, please visit this website: <http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/hcrpc/partner/gcep/>

Article courtesy of *Hello Hamilton County*

Participants/Viewers wanted for Agenda 360 CET Forum

On Sunday, February 10th, from 7:00-8:00 Agenda 360 will be featured on CET, Channel 48. For those interested in going beyond watching, to actually developing the content of the program, you are invited to a special Community Engagement Forum before the televised program. At five o'clock, before the show, you can participate in an hour-and-a-half small group discussion. Then your ideas and priorities will be tested against the work of hundreds of your fellow citizens and community leaders who have already contributed their ideas to the project during the televised broadcast.

If you would like to participate email jhackman@cincinnati-chamber.com along with your phone number so the Agenda 360 engagement team may contact you. Act now - seating is limited and is being allocated on a first come first serve basis!

For more information on Agenda 360, go to www.cincinnati360.com.



Ellen Goodman to Speak at Womans City Club Event

Each spring Woman's City Club brings a nationally known speaker to address our community. This year, their National Speaker event features Pulitzer Prize winning journalist **Ellen Goodman**, who will present her analysis of the current state of the mainstream media:

**The Political is (Too) Personal,
the Media is (Too) Polarized
and Television News is an Oxymoron
Thursday, March 13, 2008 at 7:30 pm
Plum Street Temple**

Ellen Goodman's column is appears in the Cincinnati Enquirer, as well as 450 other newspapers. Her writing demonstrates her intellect, wit, humanity, sanity, and news judgment as she grapples with the meaning of emerging shifts in our public and private lives. In this election year, with so many decisions facing the region and the country, Ms. Goodman's topic, a dispassionate examination of the state of the media, could not be more timely.

Tickets \$25 – Call WCC Office 513-751-0100

Or visit us at www.womanscityclub.org

Send check and self addressed stamped envelope to:
WCC, 103 Wm H Taft, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

Director's Corner - Steve Johns, CCR Director

A New Agenda?

In planning circles everyone knows Daniel Burnham's challenge to "make no small plans." As the Agenda 360 project begins to touch every aspect of CCR's current work program, from Shared Service and the GCEP to Equity, Inclusion and Openness to our community engagement contract, I can't help but think of Burnham's words. I am optimistic that our community is ready to head Burnham and embrace the three or four transformational initiatives that will form the action agenda for Agenda 360.



This optimism is not naively constructed, it comes from hearing from and working with the great people of our region. This optimism is based in people like Kimm Coyner, Warren County Economic Development Director, sacrificing nights away from her two young daughters because she knows that Warren County's future is tied to the region's future and the future of her family. Be it Nancy Wiley, the chair of Hamilton Vision Commission, or Mark Sackett, coordinator of the 5000 Club at Christ Church Cathedral, I see people who tirelessly give of themselves because they believe a better future is possible and necessary for this region to live up to its potential.

Perhaps above all, my optimism stems from the magic of getting a group of people around a table and allowing

them to share their stories, opinions and visions with each other and then uniting behind common values and initiatives for our region. I saw this magic on the face of Matt Van Sant, president of the Clermont County Chamber of Commerce - and small group skeptic, as he lead a small group through the Agenda 360 visioning exercise.

This optimism and Burnham's words are inspiring my vision for the future of CCR as well. Out of Agenda 360 comes a model for community engagement that can be applied to a number of decision making processes. All those federally mandated public hearings and open houses can be replaced by small group discussions that engage and empower.

I see partnerships with federally funded agencies like OKI, Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA), Hamilton County Community Development and others where CCR brings both expertise in community engagement and civic sector resources (such as foundation grants) to help deliver the ideas and passion of the people of our region to the agencies that serve them.

Talk about the proverbial win/win! CCR's non-profit status and independence give it the flexibility that governments just don't have while the citizenry that CCR serves gets plugged-in to meaningful dialogue and influence with the decision makers.

I invite you to join me in making both these "Big Plans" happen to help this region blossom in ways that we can barely imagine.

Meet Shannon Barrow

Shannon Barrow is one of five new members of the CCR Board of Trustees. As a member of the Graydon, Head & Ritchey's (GH&R) Commercial Real Estate Industry Group, Shannon practices law in the areas of real estate and construction. She assists with the acquisition, development, and sale of commercial property.



Prior to joining GH&R, Shannon focused her practice on economic development and government relations. Shannon is a 2005 graduate of the University of Cincinnati College of Law where she served as a LexisNexis Associate and Co-Chair of the Public Interest Law Group. During her law school career, Shannon was an

aide to former Cincinnati City Councilmember David Pepper and a Law Clerk in the City of Cincinnati Solicitor's Office where she collaborated with the General Counsel and Civil Litigation Departments. She also spent a summer at the Cincinnati Art Museum drafting human resource and individual and corporate giving policies.

Shannon actively supports the Cincinnati USA Partnership and Regional Chamber as a member of the Regional Business Retention Committee. She is currently Co-Chair of the Cincinnati Bar Association Young Lawyers Section Mentoring Committee. Shannon is a member of the Firm's [Women's Professional Development Group](#).

Shannon was a featured speaker at CCR's Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) forum where she outlined her work in the formation of the Liberty Township JEDD. She now serves as CCR's representative on the OKI Board of Trustees.



Rookwood Tower, Ste. 549
3805 Edwards Road
Cincinnati, OH 45209-1948

OKI 2030 Regional Transportation Plan Open Houses 4-7pm

Monday, March 3rd—Warren County
Warren County Government Center
406 Justice Drive
Lebanon, OH 45036

Monday, March 17—Boone County
Boone County Public Library-Main Branch
1786 Burlington Pike
Burlington, KY 41005

Wednesday, March 5—Butler County
Butler County Government Services Building
315 High Street
Hamilton, OH 45011

Tuesday, March 18—Campbell County
Cold Spring Fire Station
4113 Alexandria Pike
Alexandria, KY 41076

Wednesday March 12—Hamilton County
Wyoming Civic Center
1 Worthington Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45215

Wednesday, March 19 -Kenton County
Crestview Hills City Building
50 Crestview Hills Mall Road
Crestview Hills, KY 41017

Citizens for Civic Renewal Membership Form

Join CCR Today! Your membership will keep you informed; CCR newsletters and forums featuring national experts are just two of the ways in which CCR members enhance their awareness of issues of regional importance. Aggregate your voice—As a member of CCR, you join hundreds of others so that when we get the ear of public officials, your voice is heard. Support our efforts; your membership dues augment our work and match the support of local foundations and funders.

____ Individual \$25 ____ Household \$50 ____ Student \$5

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