

Winner of the week

► JIM CISSELL:



Hamilton County Clerk of Courts Jim Cissell has a Christmas gift for county workers and county taxpayers.

Under Mr. Cissell's management, the three satellite offices for auto and boat title transfers — on Red Bank Road, West Kemper Road and Glen-crossing Way — have realized a \$1.675 million reserve. Mr. Cissell donated the largesse to Hamilton County. He suggested, and the commissioners agreed, to use half of that money for a 1 percent raise for county workers. Another \$600,000 will go to operate a 24-bed "batterer's dormitory" to house people convicted of domestic violence, as an alternative to jail. The rest will fund a domestic violence task force study, 45 additional electronic monitoring devices for domestic violence offenders, and camcorders for police cruisers.

"We were able to create these three satellite offices without adding a single person," Mr. Cissell said, "and we do significantly more titles than any other offices we can find around the state." The satellite offices also handle passports, hunting and fishing licenses, payout of traffic and parking tickets, voter registration, Golden Buckeye cards and the unclaimed funds.

Good work. Great surplus.