

T E A M W O R K E X C E L L E N C E

Keeping Customers First

When MSD crews complete drainage maintenance projects, it's sometimes difficult to know how effective the improvements are.

So, Pond Creek Area Team Leader Dave Schafflein was pleasantly surprised when Ms. Christy Adams of New Maple Road phoned last month about work performed in her neighborhood. MSD Maintenance personnel regraded road-sides and installed driveway culverts on three properties.

Following two rainy days in April, Ms. Adams reported that the improvements worked and that MSD's crew, Steve Nix, Derek Shields and Construction Crewleader Ceasar Williams did an outstanding job.

Sometimes, MSD staff performs feats that have little to do with sewers and drainage. In March 1997, Sewer Maintenance Supervisor Kenny Hoerter stopped to help the victim in a head-on collision on Westport Road. "He did more than hand me Puffs for my bleeding arm," Ms. Jean M. Wright wrote to MSD Executive Director Gordon Garner. "He saved me from possibly strangling to death by loosening the seat belt from around my neck, helped with my bleeding arm and straightened me in the seat-then called the Police, EMS and my sister," Ms. Wright said.

In late April 2000, Hoerter also testified during the Court proceeding about the accident.

"I will value his act of compassion and friendship always, and am confident that MSD can count him to always serve you well," Ms. Wright said.

Cedar Creek plant honored for compliance

MSD's Cedar Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant received a Platinum Award this week from the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies. The award, which recognizes the plant's five consecutive years of full compliance with its NPDES permit, was presented this week at AMSA's 2000 National Environmental Policy Forum and 30th Anniversary Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

MSD was one of 15 organizations nationwide receiving the Platinum Award. MSD also received a Platinum Award in 1998 for the Jeffersontown Wastewater Treatment Plant.

"MSD is truly among an elite group of honorees," said Ken Kirk, AMSA's executive director. "They are doing excellent work in Louisville and Jefferson County."

Dye test helps with water study

When water-quality specialists injected a 250-pound barrel of red dye into the Ohio River on May 23, they were looking for more than red water.

"Basically, we want to learn how the river moves," said John McManus, environmental specialist with the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO). The Cincinnati-based organization is working with MSD and the City of Louisville on the Louisville Area Wet Weather Demonstration Study.

Part of the study includes models of how water in the river moves, showing how long it takes pollution to disperse in the water and noting if concentrations flow once they enter the river. The dye test will help experts learn how rapidly the dye dispersed into the river and where it traveled from the Morris Forman Wastewater Treatment Plant. ORSANCO chose the plant's discharge outfall to inject the dye because the MSD facility was a convenient place on the river, McManus said.

A team of specialists, including McManus, stayed with the dye from 9:30 a.m. until 6 p.m., tracking its movement for a seven-mile distance. Information gathered from the dye test will help develop a water quality model for the Ohio River.

The Louisville Area Wet Weather Demonstration Study evaluates how wet weather affects combined and sanitary sewer overflows, stormwater discharges and other pollution sources, and their impact on water quality in the Ohio River. It began in 1997 and should be completed in December 2001.

Small purchases simplified with P-Card

Much of MSD's work is performed outside of the office. Often employees need to buy materials when they are working in the field.

For the last two months, making those purchases has been easier with the Purchasing Card, or P-Card. The P-Cards allow staff to buy items they need for MSD business, up to \$500, when they need it. Already nearly 100 MSD employees are using P-Cards.

Gone are the purchasing requests, petty cash paperwork and other accounting details required under the old system. With the P-Card, staff can acquire the goods or services their jobs require immediately, from a growing list of vendors.

The P-Card system was the idea of Finance Division personnel, who also are realizing benefits of the new system. There are fewer payable transactions to process and each purchase is recorded on a monthly statement that lists the purchaser, vendor, item bought and the transaction. Accounts Payable Specialist Deneen Laird estimates the P-Card eliminated more than 150 payable transactions during the first month of use.

To ensure that P-Cards are used properly, there are usage and cost limitations built into the system. And, MSD's internal audit department reviews monthly statements to make sure the cards are being properly used.

Even vendors benefit from rapid payment, instead of waiting for individual invoices to be processed by MSD.

For more information about the P-Card, contact Purchasing Manager Dan Friedman at 540-6328 or Senior Accounting Specialist Rosa Taylor at 540-6335.



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Beargrass Creek watershed area

MSD makes way for new lock construction

When the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began construction of a \$260 million lock replacement at McAlpine Locks and Dam, project designers ran into a problem.

Stormwater from MSD's 27th Street Flood Pumping Station drains into the Ohio River at the spot Corps of Engineers builders planned to construct a cofferdam. It's a critical piece of the project, since the cofferdam will keep water out of the lock chambers during construction.

"The Corps' choices were to either pump our stormwater outfall from the construction area or move the outfall," said Loyiso Melisizwe, Beargrass Creek Area Team Leader.

Under an agreement between the Corps of Engineers and MSD, the outfall is moving about 400 feet east of its present location. Because the Corps is already working at the site, it will bid and manage the outfall's relocation. MSD will inspect the construction as work progresses.

Under the agreement, MSD will pay the Corps more than \$700,000 to remove and relocate the outfall, and administer the construction contract. MSD will keep an additional \$33,750 in escrow to cover any changes required as the outfall relocation gets underway.

Because the relocation of the outfall is critical to the lock construction, Melisizwe expects work to commence quickly and be completed before year-end.

The Corps of Engineers operates and maintains the McAlpine Locks, moving river traffic over the once impassable Falls of the Ohio. More than 50.3 million tons of commerce worth more than \$12 billion moved through the locks in 1998, surpassing tonnage moved through the Panama Canal and Suez Canal combined.

The new 1,200-foot lock replaces a shorter lock chamber and will join another 1,200-foot chamber that was completed in 1961. Barge traffic should begin moving through the new lock in 2007.

Drainage projects set for 23rd Street area

Construction will soon begin to improve drainage along Dixdale Avenue and Bernheim Lane. The projects are the latest in a series of phased construction projects identified in the 23rd Street Area Drainage Study, conducted in the late 1980s.

"There is no established drainage system in this area, resulting in standing water after it rains," according to Beargrass Creek Area Team Leader Loyiso Melisizwe. This project will both improve drainage along these two streets and extend a major drainage outlet to serve a broader area.

The project also will provide storm water outlets for planned drainage improvements on McCloskey Avenue and Algonquin Parkway.

MAC Construction and Excavating, Inc., New Albany, will construct the project for \$360,105.

Participants sought to create floodplain plan

MSD and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Project Impact are looking for help in developing a comprehensive floodplain management plan.

"Because of our location along the Ohio River and the topography of our county, flooding and drainage problems will always be potential hazards here," said Emergency Response Coordination and Community Relations Director Bud Schardein. "We're looking at ways to enhance current flood management programs and develop new initia-

tives to better protect our community in future flood events," he said.

A stakeholders group has begun meeting monthly. Participants represent emergency response agencies, local government, local businesses, flood and drainage experts, neighborhood associations and environmental groups.

For more information about participating in the stakeholder group and future meetings, contact Schardein at 540-6319 or schardei@msdlouky.org.

Upcoming Events

May 25 - Deering Rd. Sewer Assessment, 7 p.m., Southwest Government Center, 7219 Dixie Hwy.

May 29 - Memorial Day holiday. MSD offices are closed. For 24-hour customer service phone 587-0603.

June 1 - Public meetings: Valley Trunk VT 12C & 15C Sewer Collector Projects, AND Blueberry Dr. Sewer Assessment, 7 p.m. Southwest Government Center, 7219 Dixie Hwy.

June 5 - Public meeting, Beechwood Village I & I Project, 7 p.m., St. Matthews Fire Dept., 240 Sears Ave.

June 12 - MSD Board meeting, 10 a.m., 700 W. Liberty, first floor, AND Public meeting, Beulah Church Rd. Drainage Improvement Project, 7 p.m., Highview Fire Dept., 7308 Fegenbush Ln.

Troubled treatment plants acquired by MSD

MSD will takeover operations of two wastewater treatment plants that now serve properties in portions of the Mill Creek and Pond Creek watershed areas.

The Forest Hills Wastewater Treatment Plant will be closed, demolished and the site will be used by MSD as a flood storage basin. The Watterson Woods Wastewater Treatment Plant will be operated by MSD until lines are constructed to divert wastewater to MSD's sanitary sewer system.

Since December 1998, MSD has been working to divert wastewater from the Forest Hills plant, under an order from the state Division of Water. About 75 percent of wastewater that had been treated at Forest Hills now flows to MSD's collection and treatment system.

Under an agreement with the owner of the Forest Hills plant, MSD will purchase the plant site for \$77,188, proceed with plans to divert the remaining flow to its system and operate the existing plant in the meantime. When the wastewater diversion is completed, the plant will be demolished and contaminated soil will be removed. Then, MSD will use the site as a stormwater detention area to reduce flooding in the neighborhood during heavy rains.

An agreement with Watterson Woods Development, MSD will operate and maintain the development's wastewater treatment plant until lines are constructed to connect the development to MSD's collection and treatment system. While the development retains ownership of the treatment plant and its operating permits, the agreement calls for MSD to receive Watterson Woods' and Geneva Village's customer payments for sewer service, less \$1,000 a month to cover the development's administrative and permitting costs.

MSD expects to remove the Watterson Woods plant from service by 2002.