

December 13, 2000

## Extravaganza embraces cultural diversity

Nearly 600 MSD employees and retirees united December 8 for the fifth Cultural Extravaganza, held for the second year at the Seventh Street facility.

"Most companies throw a holiday party that is specifically geared toward the Christian holidays," explained Elizabeth Mitchell, the Extravaganza's coordinator. "MSD's employees are so diverse-doing that would exclude a lot of people-so instead we throw a holiday party celebrating that diversity instead of ignoring it," she said.

This year's event featured 11 booths, including a special booth for

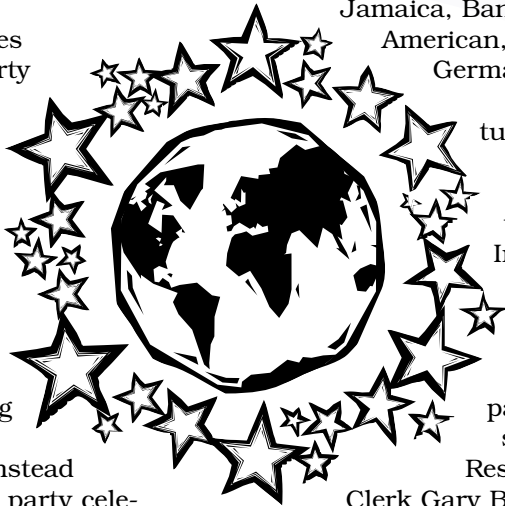
retirees because Mitchell said, "They are a culture all to themselves." Other booths represented Panama, Kwanzaa, Latin America, Japan, Jamaica, Bangladesh, Native American, Italy, Ireland and Germany.

Each booth featured photography, artwork, clothing and food native to that country.

Ireland's booth offered lace cookies while the Bangladesh booth served pakora and samusa. Human Resources Filing

Clerk Gary Blascher made a chili with turkey and venison for the Native American booth while

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## Floodplain plan meets requirements

A new floodplain management plan includes more community involvement to help make Louisville and Jefferson County a disaster-resistant community.

As administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community Rating System (CRS) Program, MSD developed the new plan to meet new CRS requirements. The CRS program rates communities by their efforts to reduce flood damage, initiate mapping and regulatory activities, provide public information and offer flood preparedness activities.

Of the 10 rate classes in the CRS program, both Louisville and Jefferson County have a Class 6 CRS rating, the best in Kentucky. That qualifies floodplain property owners here for a

20 percent reduction in flood insurance premiums.

Flood insurance is required to obtain federally insured loans for properties located in the floodplain. "There are 22,000 properties in our community's floodplain and flood insurance rates are several hundred dollars a year for a typical home," said Executive Director Gordon R. Garner. "Without our good CRS ranking, these rates would be much higher," he said.

Of the 19,000 communities in the National Flood Insurance Program, only 926 participate in the CRS program. As of October 1, only six communities nationwide have better ratings than Louisville and Jefferson County. "We don't see this as an optional activity; our goal is to continue working to achieve a better CRS rating and lower flood insurance rates for our customers," Garner said.

## Facilities buffer zone policy adopted

A policy adopted by MSD's Board will help make MSD facilities better neighbors to businesses and homes near them.

To provide sewer, drainage and flood protection services, MSD operates wastewater treatment plants, pump stations, stormwater basins and other facilities. Many are located in neighborhoods and commercial areas. The policy provides guidelines

for MSD staff in resolving concerns about these facilities.

Emergency Response and Community Relations Director Bud Schardein said questions about the impact of MSD facilities frequently come up in public meetings about service expansion. "People are clear about wanting MSD services, but

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## Upcoming Events

**Dec. 13** – Public meeting, Kramers Lane North, Phase II Sewer Project, 7 p.m., Southwest Government Center, 7219 Dixie Hwy. AND Public Meeting, Glaser Ln. Project, 7 p.m., Fern Creek Elementary, 8815 Ferndale Rd.

**Dec. 14** – Public meeting, Black Pond 5C Sewer Project, 7 p.m., Southwest Government Center, 7219 Dixie Hwy.

**Dec. 18** – Public meeting, Kramers/Crums Lane Sewer Interceptor, 7 p.m. Southwest Government Center, 7219 Dixie Hwy.

**Dec. 25 & 26** – Christmas holidays AND Jan. 1-New Year Holiday. MSD offices are closed. For 24-hour emergency service phone 587-0603.

**Jan. 3** – Public meeting, Hikes Point 2 Sewer Remediation Project, noon to 8 p.m., Bon Air Regional Library, 2816 Del Rio Plc.

**Jan. 4** – Public meeting, Valley Village Sewer Remediation Project, 7 to 9 p.m., Southwest Government Center, 7219 Dixie Hwy.

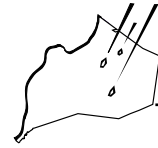
**Jan. 8** – MSD Board meeting, 10 a.m., 700 W. Liberty, first floor

*All of us  
at MSD  
wish you a  
safe and  
happy  
holiday season*



**MSD**

700 West Liberty Street  
Louisville, Kentucky 40203  
502-540-6000



## Stormwater basins planned near Fairgrounds

Two stormwater storage basins will reduce flood risks at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center and thousands of properties in that area.

With a combined capacity of 29 million gallons, the basins will be constructed on seven acres donated by KFEC. One of the basins will be an expansion of the existing Brady Lake, located on the Fairgrounds near Crittenden Drive. The second basin will be south of Phillips Lane behind the Executive Inn.

"This is one of the most important flood protection projects MSD has ever undertaken," said Executive Director Gordon Garner. Various concepts to reduce flooding in the area have been reviewed since August 1992, when flash flooding damaged the Fairgrounds and some 6,000 residences nearby.

That area, which includes the I-264 and I-65 interchange, has grown significantly since the 1950s.

MSD's Upper Dry Run Trunk system, which serves the area, has been impacted and runoff during heavy rains exceeds its design capacity. As a result, homes and businesses in the area have flooded. "These basins should reduce the average annual combined sewer overflow volume from the area by about 92 million gallons a year," Garner said.

The basins will take nearly two years to construct at a cost of about \$4.1 million. Hardaway Construction Corp. was awarded the construction contract. Under an agreement with Fairgrounds management, construction will halt during major events at KFEC, including the Kentucky State Fair, International Truck Show and Future Farmers of America annual convention.

Garner said KFEC donated the land for the basins, valued at \$1.75 million and will maintain the basins after construction is completed.

## Ohio River study to continue

MSD's commitment to studying how rain impacts pollutants in the Ohio River will continue until the study's completion next December.

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 a 72-mile stretch of the Ohio River.

It was initiated in 1997 by the Ohio River Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) under a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The City of Louisville, Louisville Water Co., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the cities of Clarksville, Jeffersonville and New Albany, MSD and other private and public organizations are participating with ORSANCO through monetary and in-kind contributions.

So far, baseline dry weather sampling and three wet weather surveys have been completed, and development of a water quality model is underway, according to Patti Grace-Jarrett of MSD's Wet Weather/Water Quality Team. Tasks that remain include up to three additional wet weather surveys and preparation of a final report.

Already data from the study has provided key information. A dry weather survey conducted in August 1998 shows that the Ohio River meets standards for recreational use.

But, samples from a rainy period in October 1998 show an increase in pollutants in the river. "When it rains, the sampling shows that risk to human health increases," Grace-Jarrett said. "The study's goal is to pinpoint where that pollution is coming from."

That's a huge task in a study area beginning north of Harrods Creek and continuing downriver to the confluence of the Salt River. In this segment, there are about 140 combined sewer overflows, discharges from eight municipal wastewater treatment facilities, numerous sanitary sewer overflows, and 55 Indiana and Kentucky industrial facilities with permitted discharges directly into the Ohio River.

When completed, MSD hopes the study will help focus long-term control plans for pollution sources from wet-weather events.

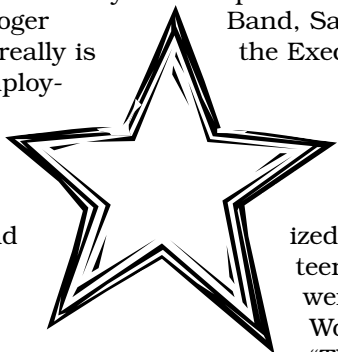
## Extravaganza embraces

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Roseanne Kruzich and her mother offered pierogies, bratwurst and sauerkraut for a taste of Germany.

Operations staffer Roger Thomas said the event "really is a nice way to involve employees' families." His son, Mathew said he'd rather have a Happy Meal for lunch, but seemed glad to spend time with his dad.

Entertainment is an Extravaganza hallmark. As MSD employees and their families browsed booths and sampled food, video feeds of Extravaganzas Past were projected onto a giant screen. Among the



highlight reels was the E-Team's 1999 performance of *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*.

Other entertainment included the Our Lady of Lourdes school choir, Operation Brightside Garbage Can Band, Santa's Little Yelpers and the Executive Office staff's version of *Twelve Days of Christmas*.

Mitchell said this was the first year the Extravaganza was organized and run solely by volunteers. Past Extravaganzas were sponsored by MSD's Workforce Diversity Council. "This year everyone just pitched in and got it done,"

Mitchell said. "We didn't have to worry at all about not having enough people to help."

## Facilities buffer policy

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they are concerned about truck traffic, noise, lighting and odor in their neighborhoods," Schardein said.

The policy recognizes that MSD facilities can potentially impact areas where they are located, and that these impacts can result in customer dissatisfaction, according to Charles Horton, vice chair of MSD's Board and policy committee chair. "The policy states that MSD should proactively review facilities and take advantage of cost-effective opportunities to abate problems," Horton said.

Specifically the policy calls for identification of potential off-site impacts of MSD facilities and periodic evaluation of off-site impacts triggered by facility or activity expansions. The policy also directs MSD staff to evaluate cost-effective measures to mitigate impact.

Schardein said many concerns can be simply resolved, such as planting trees to visibly shield the facilities from neighborhoods where they may be out-of-character with other structures. "This policy gives staff guidelines to discuss ways to resolve problems with customers, and that will make MSD a better neighbor."