



MSD

Louisville and Jefferson County  
Metropolitan Sewer District

# Update

News about activities and developments at MSD

July 11, 2001

## Vision unveiled for Beargrass Creek

Since February 2000, a 30-member task force has explored the potential of restoring Beargrass Creek for recreational and educational uses.

Two raft trips, countless committee meetings and numerous hikes later, the task force has released a report outlining plans to make Beargrass Creek an educa-



tional and recreational area for people and a home for wildlife.

The task force focused on the area from Towhead Island to the confluence of Beargrass Creek and the Ohio River, according to Gordon Garner, who co-chaired the task force with Mayor Dave Armstrong. The report lists immediate steps that can be taken, including:

- Create a Beargrass Creek boating channel from MSD's pumping station on Story Ave. to the creek's confluence with the river for small craft and private tour concessions. Include a safe boating harbor to protect small craft from winds and commercial river traffic.
- Create a trail along Beargrass Creek that connects with the Butchertown Greenway, Waterfront Park and the bicycle and pedestrian way planned along River Road.

(continued on page 3)

## Partnership creating unified permit review for construction, development

The City of Louisville, Jefferson County and MSD have teamed to create a unified review and permit tracking system for all development and construction projects within Jefferson County.

The partners intend to streamline the processes, establish a common database for plan review and permit and code enforcement action, provide a unified call center and payment mechanism, and make the entire permit and review process available on the Internet.

In the current development review and permit process, some 35 separate agencies and more than 90 functions are involved, according to Executive Director Gordon Garner. "At best it is confusing, redundant, inconsistent and time-consuming for people who are trying to get plans reviewed or obtain a permit," Garner said.

A project management team made up of representatives of the city, county and MSD has been named to oversee the creation of the unified system over an 18-month period. They'll be doing more than simply making existing processes and data available on the Internet, Garner said. "They'll actually be reviewing the steps and require-

ments to see what can be changed to provide a more business-like approach to permitting and plan review."

When completed, the new system is expected to:

- Enable access to the same data by all agencies, reducing redundancy, confusion and costs
- Establish criteria so that decisions are more consistent

- Streamline customer entry into plan review and permitting processes
- Provide a single record case that spans a property's life cycle from plan review to certificate of occupancy
- Enable customers to access to information over the counter, by telephone and on the Internet

While many city, county and

state agencies will benefit from a streamlined system, Garner expects several individuals and groups seeking to build in Jefferson County will save time and resources when the new process is in place. Those include utilities, engineering firms, general contractors, land surveyors, realtors, home builders and developers.

Work on the project will begin in earnest August 1 and is expected to cost about \$3.2 million.

*"At best the current process is confusing, redundant, inconsistent and time-consuming for people who are trying to get plans reviewed or obtain a permit."*

## Keeping Customers First

*Editor's note: Following are excerpts from customer letters.*

"I want to thank Stormwater Drainage Supervisor **David Heady** for sending **Robert Day** and his crew (**David Floyd, Billie French** and **Van Johnson**) to clean the ditch behind my back fence. Mr. Day made some very practical suggestions for a more permanent solution, which I hope you will consider. And, please send Mr. Day and his crew to do the work!"

—Mary Kapfhammer  
Louisville 40219

Thank you, Mr. Heady, and your crew (**James Brown, Nate Elliott, Charlie Wilson, Val Winburn** and **Ron Wordlow**) led by **Mike Young** for the excellent work on Beargrass Creek at Bent Creek Apartments. We appreciate the preventive effort very much.

—John Peek, Jr.  
Owner, Bent Creek Apartments

## MSD Milestones

MSD congratulates departing employees and thanks them for their service:

- **Debra Schiesser**, Fleet Services Specialist, resigned

MSD welcomes to our team:

- **Tammy Moore**, Customer Service Representative
- **James Poynter**, Auto/Heavy Equipment Tech
- **Carl Soowoo**, Sewer Utility Trainee

## Watershed News

### Beargrass Creek

#### Broadmoor to see drainage improvements

Existing drainage systems in portions of the Broadmoor subdivision should function more efficiently when a drainage maintenance project is completed.

The St. Francis/St. Charles Drainage Maintenance Project will improve existing rear yard drainage facilities along Monticello Avenue, St. Francis Lane and St. Charles Lane. Roadside drainage systems along East Indian Trail and Broadmoor Court also will be enhanced.

About 27 properties will benefit from the improvements. The project is expected to cost \$98,261.

### Morris Forman Wastewater Treatment Plant

#### Contract means energy savings

A long-term contract with a natural gas provider may help MSD save on energy costs at its largest wastewater treatment facility.

MSD's Board has approved a three-year contract with Alliance Energy Services to provide natural gas to the Morris Forman plant at substantial savings than if the purchases were made through the Louisville Gas and Electric Co.

This is the second contract for natural gas with Alliance. From November 1999 through May 2001, MSD saved \$343,208 on natural gas used at Morris Forman.

Finance Director Marion Gee said savings could result from the ability to buy natural gas for future use at current prices. "The contract allows MSD the flexibility to lock in a price today for gas purchases up to 36 months from now," Gee said.

The new contract with Alliance begins Nov. 1, 2001, and ends Oct. 31, 2004.

### Mill Creek

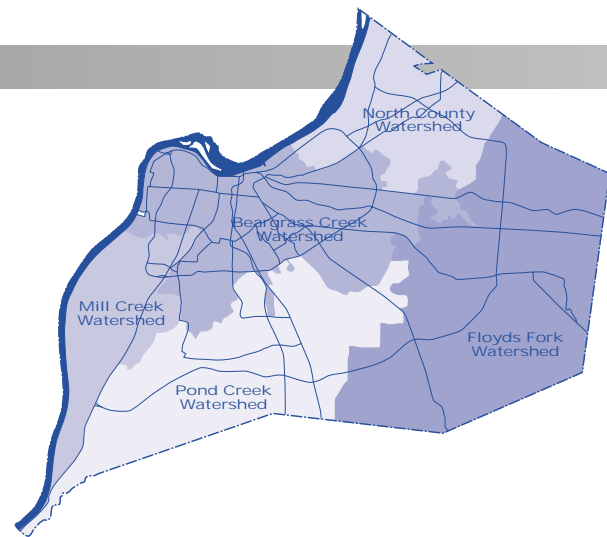
#### Work continues on Feyhurst sewers

The largest project currently under construction in the Mill Creek watershed will not only connect some 800 properties to sewer service, it also will improve drainage and provide a smoother roadway.

"When we have an opportunity to improve drainage and partner with Jefferson County Public Works to resurface roads while we're working in a neighborhood, we try to take advantage of it," explained Mill Creek Area Team Leader Tom Williams.

Rear and front yard drainage improvements will relieve standing water problems for 65 properties in the Feyhurst area and respond to about 30 customer requests, Williams said. In addition, the entire length of Sky Blue Avenue will be paved. Additional work on the project also included relocating sewer lines that conflicted with existing utility lines and removing an abandoned oil storage tank discovered in the area.

The additional work adds \$413,550 to the project's cost. Construction is expected to be completed late this year.



## MSD initiatives to be featured at international conference

When the Water Environment Federation convenes for its 74th annual technical exposition and conference this fall, there will be a strong Louisville presence.

The three-day event will feature 10 presentations about MSD initiatives, projects and experiences, ranging from implementing automated facility controls to developing an environmental management system.

Conference presentations are selected by committees of water and environmental experts across the U.S. "This is one of the oldest and largest water quality and environmental management conferences in the world, and will be attended by an international audience," according to Director of Research/Productivity Assessment Mike Sweeney. "To have 10 presentations chosen is both significant and an honor."

The presentations, along with the MSD staff and consultants who developed them, are:

**Action Plan for the New Millennium—Louisville and Jefferson County MSD Utilize a Multi-Variable Risk Model to Support Long-Range Service Area Planning.** Saeed Assef, Vince Bowlin, Gordon Garner, Derek Guthrie, Sweeney, and Gary Swanson and Andrea Wilson of CH2M Hill

**The Digital Utility: From Bricks to Clicks.** Tom Spalding and Sweeney

**Pollution Prevention Through Energy Efficiency at a Public Wastewater/Stormwater Utility.** Walter Bell, Sarah Lynn Cunningham and Sweeney

**Implementation of Environmental Performance Measures for a Pretreatment Program.** Greg Ratliff, Mark Sneve and Sharon Worley

**Protestors at the Gate—Dealing with Environmental Justice Issues in Replacing**

**Louisville MSD's Regional Solids Handling System.** Assef, David Carty, Garner, Bud Schardein, Sweeney and Swanson of CH2M Hill

**Alternative Project Delivery Nets Louisville MSD Long-Sought Innovative Solution for Biosolids.** Assef, Guthrie and Sweeney, and Blake Childress and Gary Shimp of Black & Veatch

**From Wastewater Collection and Treatment to Receiving Streams: Getting People, Information and Systems Working Together AND Surviving Organizational Change.** Sweeney

**Implementing SCADA and Automation to Support Louisville MSD's Strategic Business Plan.** Don Szymanski

**Traits of a Successful Laboratory Information Management System Implementation: Approaches to Selecting and Implementing a LIMS in Your Lab.** Zonetta English and Patrick Fitzgerald

WEFTEC 2001 begins October 13 in Atlanta. For conference details or to register, visit the Water Environment Federation's Internet site, [www.wef.org](http://www.wef.org).

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## New rates effective August 1

Customer fees for MSD's sewer and drainage service will increase by 5 percent, beginning with August 1 billings.

Under the new rates, approved by MSD's Board July 9, residential sewer customers will pay an average of \$15.41 per month, about 75 cents more, and an average of \$3.65 for drainage services, an increase of about 17 cents a month.

A dozen customers attended a June 18 public hearing on the proposed rates. Four customers spoke at the hearing—one in support of the increase and two in opposition. Two customers wrote letters opposing the increase.

Customer rates help operate and maintain the existing sewer and drainage systems. Funds from the rate increase also will pay for capital construction projects and neighborhood sewer and drainage projects.

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### **Task force unveils** *(continued from front page)*

- Create a master plan for a Beargrass Creek recreation area that includes an extended trail system, nature preserve, picnic and recreational areas.

Garner said the task force's plans are a work in progress. "Additional feasibility studies and funding mechanisms still must be explored to make the plans reality," he said.

Other members of the task force, appointed by Mayor

Armstrong, include representatives from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the City of Louisville, Butchertown Neighborhood Association and Jefferson County Public Schools. MSD Board Chair Reba Doutrick, Community Relations/Emergency Response Director Bud Schardein and Beargrass Area Team Leader Loyiso Melisizwe also served on the task force.

To request a copy of the report, contact the Louisville Development Authority at 502/574-4140.



# MSD

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Metropolitan Sewer District

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## Inside *Update*

- Task force unveils Beargrass Creek plan
- City, County and MSD partner on permit review
- MSD initiatives to be featured at global expo
- New rates approved

## Upcoming Events

### July 16

*Public meeting*, Larkgrove Treatment Plant Elimination, 7 p.m., Central Government Center, 7201 Outer Loop

### July 18

*Public meeting*, Kramers/Crums Lane Sewer Collectors, 7 p.m., Southwest Government Center, 7219 Dixie Hwy.

### July 23

*MSD Board Meeting*, 10 a.m., 700 W. Liberty St., first floor

*Public meeting*, South Park Sewer Project, 7 p.m., Wilderness Road Club, 8113 Blue Lick Rd.

*Public meeting*, Cedar Creek Sewer Rehab Project, 7 p.m., Central Government Center, 7201 Outer Loop

### July 24

*Public meeting*, Cane Run (CR-1) Sewer Project, 7 p.m., Southwest Government Center, 7219 Dixie Hwy.

## Jonap rated "Exceptionally Achieves"

Payroll Administrator Cheryl Jonap has one of the most visible jobs in MSD's Finance Division. "On Fridays, she's possibly MSD's most popular employee," says Finance Director Marion Gee.

But her job entails more than handing out checks. Jonap files all payroll taxes on time and without penalties. She played a key part in reconfiguring the entire payroll system as part of the SAP system MSD began using in 1998.

"Cheryl devoted her time to developing processes and procedures that streamlined the payroll function," Gee said. "MSD's suc-

cessful implementation of SAP software is due in large part to Cheryl's dedication and commitment to provide quality service to our employees."

Jonap received her second Exceptionally Achieves performance rating, the highest rating an MSD employee can earn. It requires being recommended by senior management and approval by MSD's Board.

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