



MSD

Louisville and Jefferson County
Metropolitan Sewer District

Update

News about activities and developments at MSD

March 14, 2001

MSD merging publications

This issue of *Update* is different from past issues.

Update is now a four-page newsletter including information MSD had previously published in *Cross Currents*, *Metro Times* and *Streamlines*.

Update will continue to be published twice a month following regular meetings of the MSD Board. Special inserts, focusing on key matters of interest to *Update* readers, will be produced on an as-needed basis.

To submit a topic for *Update*, contact Robin Bowling of the Public Affairs Department at 540-6576 or bowling@msdlouky.org.

To receive an issue of *Update* or to be included on the distribution list, contact Sandra Gibson at 540-6351 or gibson@msdlouky.org.

Local companies recognized for pretreatment

The Kentucky/Tennessee Water Environment Association has awarded its 2001

Pretreatment Award to two Louisville manufacturers. MSD works with companies on ways to treat

wastewater before it is discharged into the sewer system,



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Janet Skees honored by Purdue engineering school

DiverseWorks helped her succeed



Purdue University honored Janet Skees with its 2000 Alumni Civil Engineering Alumni Achievement Award.

Janet S. Skees, president and CEO of Louisville-based Skees Engineering, Inc., is one of five Purdue University graduates honored with the 2000 Civil Engineering Alumni Achievement Award.

The awards were presented March 8 at the University's West Lafayette, Indiana campus. Skees holds a master's degree in civil engineering from Purdue, which has graduated more women in its engineering program than any other U.S. university.

A former MSD employee, Skees

formed her civil engineering firm as a sole proprietor in 1986. With MSD as a stable client, she slowly added staff and won contracts from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the City of Lexington.

A certified woman-owned business, Skees Engineering quickly established a reputation for quality work and unique approaches to prob-

lems by working as a subcontractor with larger firms. Soon, the

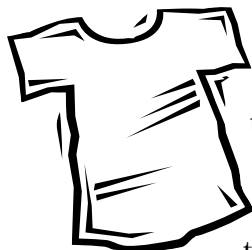
Skees Engineering quickly established a reputation for quality work.

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Giving Tree honors MSD employees

As the calendar marches toward spring, the past holiday season is a fading memory for most.

But the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children remembers



the season, and the joy many local families experienced, thanks to MSD employees. The Cabinet awarded MSD staff a certificate of appreciation

for the holiday Giving Tree campaign that provides holiday gifts, household items and groceries to the community's neediest families.

Since 1998 MSD's staff has participated in the Cabinet's annual Giving Tree effort, making the holidays brighter for 314 individuals in 76 families. "I think what the Cabinet is saying to us is, 'Job well done—not just for 2000 but for the two previous years as well,'" said Mike Sweeney, MSD's Director of Research/Productivity Assessment and a member of MSD's Holiday Committee.



"We expect a gift or two, then find that our sponsors like

MSD provide not only for the children but for the adults as well," said Scott Seligman of the Cabinet for Families and Children. "Our families and even our staff comment on the generosity of the donors."

Becky Bennett, Theresa Daly, Pat Kirk and Sweeney have served as MSD's Holiday Committee since 1998. Sweeney said the entire organization gets involved, with individual departments sponsoring entire families and staff from all locations volunteering to assist. "Our campaign is successful because MSD employees care about families in our community that need our help," Sweeney said.



Watershed News

Beargrass Creek

Innovative plan to serve businesses

When 15 commercial and industrial properties along River Road and Edith Avenue are connected to sanitary sewers later this year, they will get the service in an unconventional way.

MSD traditionally uses gravity sewers to move wastewater from homes and businesses to treatment facilities. Installing sewers to serve the River Road area customers posed challenges because of the location—on flat land near the Ohio River.

"The slope required for gravity sewers doesn't exist there," said Beargrass Watershed Area Team Leader Loyiso Melisizwe. "Plus, we wanted to build a system that would work for these customers, even when river levels are up."

To serve these businesses, MSD chose a pumped pressure system that requires a pump at each service location. The pump system costs about \$300,000 less to construct than a traditional gravity sewer line. Melisizwe said the system should also be less susceptible to inflow and infiltration problems that can cause sewer lines to become overloaded during heavy rains.

Project to improve Penway/Linwood drainage

Standing water in yards and along roadsides after rains will be reduced when drainage improvements are installed in a neighborhood east of Cane Run Road.

About 80 properties in the 3000 blocks of Penway and Lindwood avenues, and in the 1900 block of South 30th Street should benefit from the project, designed to move stormwater from yards into new curb catch basins. In addition to the catch basins, roll curbs and gutters will be installed, the existing area between sidewalks and streets will be regraded, and driveway aprons will be replaced.

Mill Creek

Sewer extension project OK'ed

Construction is set to begin to extend sanitary sewer service to 618 properties southeast of Cane Run Road.

The Kramers Lane South (KL1S) project will build nearly 30,000 feet of sewer to connect area homes and businesses to service. It will be constructed by Team Contracting at a cost of \$2.9 million.

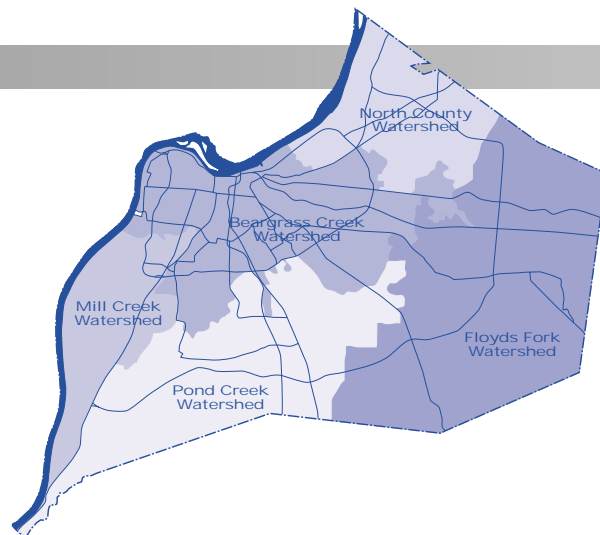
North County

Project to complete Indian Hills sewers

The remaining six properties in the City of Indian Hills that hadn't yet been connected to sewer service will be soon.

Berry Contracting Company will begin construction to provide sewer service to six residential properties in the vicinity of Indian Hills Trail and Arrowhead Road.

Sewer lines will run along the back yards of the properties and will cost about \$107,000 to construct.

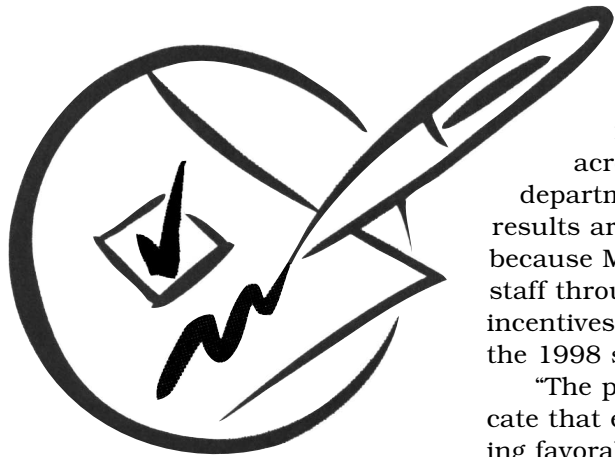


Employee survey tracks progress

MSD headed in right direction

If the preliminary results of a December 2000 survey of MSD employees are any indication, the organization is successfully turning its focus toward customers.

Fifty-three percent of MSD's



staff believes that customers come first in the way MSD is managed, according to employee responses to a December 2000 survey.

Only 39 percent of employees responded positively to the same question on the previous survey in August 1998.

"It looks like MSD is pointed in the right direction to become a more customer-focused organization," explained The Oliver Group's Tom Farley who coordinated the Dialog® Employee Survey, "but there is still a way to go."

Some 460 MSD employees responded to the 125-question survey in December 2000. Farley will present the survey's preliminary results to MSD senior management on March 16. Sessions to discuss the survey results with all MSD staff are being planned.

The discussions won't reveal the identities of survey respondents to any MSD employee. Farley said that information is confidential.

Compared with results of the 1998 Dialog® Survey, Farley said, "MSD shows significant favorable improvement across all areas and all departments." He said the results are particularly meaningful because MSD has downsized its staff through early retirement incentives and reorganized since the 1998 survey was conducted.

"The preliminary results indicate that employees are responding favorably to the changes, and MSD's overall direction is more promising from their perspective than it was in 1998," Farley noted.

Executive Director Gordon Garner said the survey results show where MSD has successfully implemented organizational change and highlight areas that still need improvement. "MSD is

implementing its first-ever Strategic Business Plan, and I believe this plan will help MSD improve its organizational effectiveness," Garner said. "However, we cannot make long-term

improvements without regularly assessing employee attitudes. Their feedback helps MSD develop action plans to improve weaknesses and also build on strengths."

Editor's note: A special employee issue of Update summarizing the survey results will be published later this month.

Employees are responding favorably to changes and MSD's overall direction is more promising from their perspective.

Janet Skees honored

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company began seeking—and winning—contracts as a prime contractor from a client base that includes U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, City of Louisville, Regional Airport Authority, Jefferson County Public Schools, University of Louisville and MSD.

Skees attributes much of her firm's success to an ongoing relationship with MSD. "MSD has consistently passed our name on to national and regional consulting firms pursuing major MSD projects," Skees said. "As a result, we have been involved with a number of MSD's large undertakings."

"Skees Engineering is a prime example of how DiverseWorks can work," said Derwin Webb, who administers the program for MSD. "The firm built a track record with MSD, capitalized on networking opportunities to build alliances with other companies, and has grown its customer base to achieve tremendous growth."





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Metropolitan Sewer District

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Inside Update

- Pretreating wastewater gets companies noticed
- Employee survey shows “favorable improvement”
- Giving Tree recognizes MSD staff
- DiverseWorks works—for Skees Engineering

Upcoming Events

March 21

Public meeting, Johnsonstown Road (JT-1 & MC-5C) Sewer Project, 7 p.m. Southwest Government Center, 7219 Dixie Hwy.

March 26

MSD Board meeting, 10 a.m., 700 W. Liberty, first floor

Date change! *Public meeting*, Cane Run (CRIW) Sewer Project, 7 p.m., Southwest Government Center, 7219 Dixie Hwy.

April 2

Public meeting, West County Phase 2 Inflow & Infiltration Sewer Rehabilitation Project, 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Central Government Center, 7201 Outer Loop

Local companies recognized

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according to Inspection Enforcement Supervisor Tom Spalding.

“Engelhard Corporation and Kentucky Manufacturing Company achieved outstanding pretreatment performance and deserve this honor,” he said.

Engelhard, which manufactures inorganic and organic pigments, worked in 2000 to reduce pigment losses to sewers. “Engelhard’s production staff implemented many innovative changes that smoothed the performance of its pretreatment facility, reduced costs and minimized product losses,” Spalding noted.

One of Louisville’s oldest companies, Kentucky Manufacturing Company, once produced horse-

drawn wagons and now is an over-the-road moving van manufacturer. With a new manufacturing facility that includes metal finishing, the company’s pretreatment efforts have been ongoing.

“MSD commends Englehard and Kentucky Manufacturing for their environmental approach to reducing flow and wastewater concentrations have occurred,” Spalding said.

MSD staff partners with area industries on strategies to pretreat wastewater to minimize impacts on the sewer system and on the water quality in area waterways. MSD also is participating in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Excellence in Leadership (XL) Project to help industrial pretreatment efforts achieve greater environmental benefits.