



November 13, 2002

Center narrows issue focus

When the University of Louisville, Louisville Water Company and MSD partnered a year ago to form the Center for Infrastructure Research at U of L's Speed Scientific School, the goal was to pursue solutions to local urban infrastructure issues.

As the center enters its second year, the three partners have identified four areas of mutual interest on which to focus research efforts:

- Detect voids near subsurface infrastructure by using non-destructive detection equipment
- Identify and evaluate water and wastewater systems' vulnerability to earthquakes
- Explore ways to increase water flow in Beargrass Creek during dry weather to improve water quality
- Study the extent of premature degradation of plumbing gaskets and seals caused by the use of chloramines to disinfect drinking water

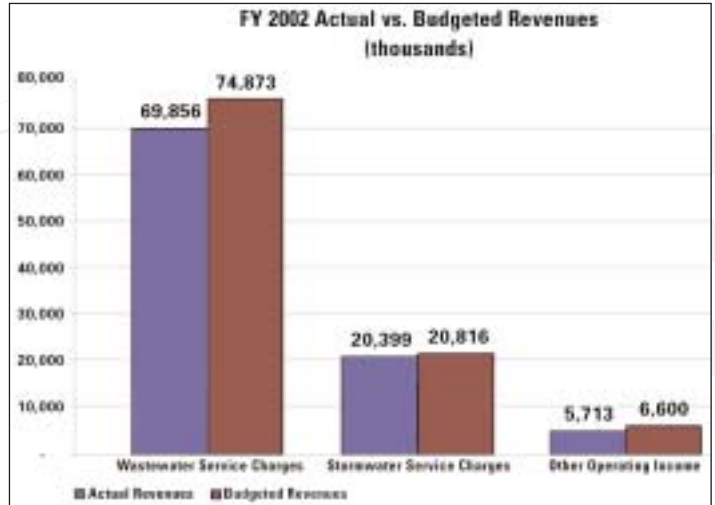
The Center also is seeking grants to maximize the core funding received from its partners, according to MSD Operations Director Mike Sweeney. Both Sweeney and Engineering Director Derek Guthrie represent MSD on the Center's Board.

"Shared new knowledge is the key dividend," Sweeney said. "That benefits the entire community and other areas across the region that are facing many of the same challenges."

MSD still doing more with less

Audited financial statements for Fiscal Year 2002, which ended June 30, demonstrate that MSD continued to provide more services for less cost.

In fact, the revenues generated by wastewater and stormwater service rates and other sources were less than MSD expected, according to Finance Director Marion Gee. "A growing customer base and an expanding service area brought additional operating revenues, an increase of 2.5 percent more than



the previous year, but the revenues were \$6.3 million less than we budgeted," Gee said.

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Rare bird visits Floyds Fork plant

The tiny Bewick's wren has all but disappeared from the eastern United States, driven west as woodlands were cleared and marshes drained, virtually eliminating this once-common area bird's favored habitat.

At least one Bewick's wren chose a spot in Jefferson County for a few days' rest on its winter migration journey: the low-brush natural land at the Floyds Fork Wastewater Treatment Plant.

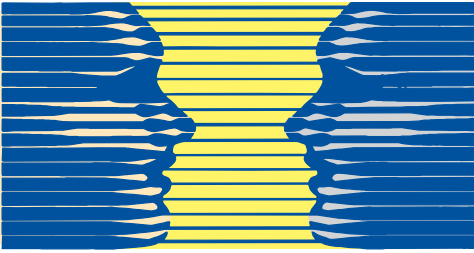
Barbara Woerner, a Louisville volunteer bird watcher for the Kentucky Ornithological Society, first spotted a Bewick's wren September 12 on a walk with her dog in Miles Park near the boundary with the Floyds Fork plant. The next day, Woerner got a



Barbara Woerner spotted the Bewick's wren several times in September near the Floyds Fork plant.

closer look, observing white tail tips and the distinctive white stripe over the eyes. A week later, she saw the same bird emerge from a tree root cavity.

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Customer First at Work

Editor's note: Following are excerpts of customer comments.

"Thanks to **Chris Hardin** and crew, **Tony Porter** and **Mike Anderson**, for resolving the backup at my property. They were very helpful and professional. Please see that they are credited for a job well done!"

—Mrs. John Stocker,
Middletown, 40222

"We're confident that you are informed when there are problems on a project, therefore we wanted to let you know how pleased we are with the way the Ohio River Force Main project has been handled. MSD's **David Givan** and **Debbie Troutman** made us feel that our concerns mattered. And the team from MAC Construction were unbelievably hard working."

—John and Vicky Voyles,
Louisville, 40207

"Thanks to **Tammy Moore**, my questions about plumbing modification are answered."

—Gwendolyn String,
Louisville, 40219

"MSD has a nice employee in **Don Riddle**. He talked us through the sewer back up and got it working again."

—Mr. and Mrs. Herman Duncan,
Louisville, 40291

"**Jermaine Murphy**, **Steve Stewart** and **Christina Thomas** did an excellent job on the cave-in and putting everything back like it was."

—Ed Goldner, Louisville, 40218

Area Team News

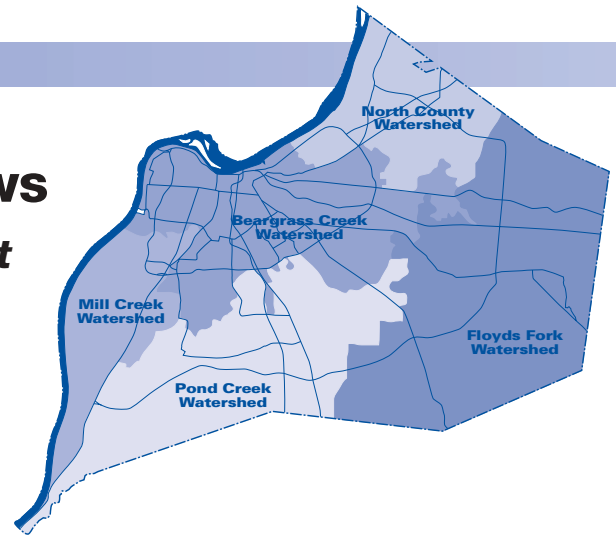
Morris Forman Plant

Telemetry system expansion approved

An additional 100 sites throughout MSD's service area will soon be connected to the district telemetry system.

Through telemetry, MSD facilities may be monitored and operated from a control center at the Morris Forman Wastewater Treatment Plant, according to Morris Forman Team Leader Saeed Assef. "Telemetry saves time when critical facilities need to be activated," Assef said. "It also reduces staff time required to monitor and activate pump stations, small treatment plants and other MSD-operated facilities."

Telemetry connections to the 100 sites make up phase four of MSD's effort to implement telemetric operation of all facilities.



Pond Creek

Channel repairs to improve drainage

A long, flat drainage channel that runs between rear yards of properties along Moody and Blue Lick roads will be enhanced to reduce yard flooding and standing water.

The Pond Creek Area Team initiated the project in response to requests from area customers, according to Pond Creek Area Team Leader David Schaftlein.

The channel improvements will directly benefit 47 properties and provide an outlet for future roadside drainage improvements along Moody Road and elsewhere in the Timber Glen subdivision.

Planned channel improvements are expected to cost \$139,940.



Improvements to this drainage channel will reduce standing water and rear yard flooding between Moody and Blue Lick roads.

FEMA, MSD partner to reduce flood damage costs

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved funding for a plan to purchase four properties located in the Pond Creek floodplain.

The plan is part of FEMA's Project Impact, which works through Jefferson County's Emergency Management Agency to reduce personal and economic costs of disasters. "Keeping homes away from floodplains is a basic element of hazard mitigation," said Pond Creek Area Team Leader David Schafflein.

The four properties were selected because they are located in the floodplain, have a history of flooding and flooding damage and are adjoining. The properties front on Old Third Street Road and are bordered by Pond Creek. Owners of the four properties have agreed to

sell. While a fifth property was identified for inclusion in the Project Impact application, the owners have not yet agreed to sell.

Combined, the four properties represent more than eight acres. When structures are cleared, the area may be used for additional floodplain reduction measures or simply allowed to return to a naturally functioning floodplain. Schafflein said the area is adjacent to current and planned flood control projects, and could enhance the use and benefit of those efforts.

Cost to purchase the four properties is \$212,000, with FEMA paying \$145,000 and MSD's share totaling \$67,000.

Doing more

(continued from front page)

Wastewater charges alone were \$5 million less than budgeted. Because MSD's customer revenues are collected through a partnership with the Louisville Water Company, a new meter reading system delayed MSD's receipt of some revenue after Fiscal Year 2002 ended. A decline in industrial wastewater revenues also contributed to the shortfall since some industrial users have closed or are producing less wastewater because of their own pretreatment programs.

"Our efforts to provide more services for less cost by using automated processes and more cost-efficient technologies reduced the impact of the revenue shortfall," said Gee. MSD's staff and Board are exploring possible new revenue sources, including continued expansion of MSD's service area and marketing biosolid pellets produced by the solids process system at the Morris Forman Wastewater Treatment Plant.

MSD's audited financial report for Fiscal Year 2002 will soon be available on MSD's Internet site (www.msdlouky.org). To obtain a copy of the report in the meantime, contact Gee (**540-6522 or gee@msdlouky.org**).

Rare bird

(continued from front page)



Hollow trees are inviting homes for small birds. More than 100 species of birds have been counted around the Floyds Fork plant property

She consulted Brainard Palmer-Ball, Terrestrial Vertebrate Zoologist for the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, who confirmed that Woerner saw the first Bewick's wren in Jefferson County for at least 20 years.

Woerner isn't surprised that the sighting occurred near a wastewater treatment plant. "I've already identified the presence of more than 100 species of birds there and believe others will be found in time," Woerner said.

Bird watchers gain a greater appreciation of nature, observing

how little environmental changes like mowing and clearing trees impact the natural habitat. "What I like best about the area near the plant is that even though there is no supplemental food or shelter, it functions as an independent ecosystem," Woerner said.

That's what MSD had in mind in designing the Floyds Fork Wastewater Treatment Plant, according to CERES Principles Engineer Sarah Lynn Cunningham. "Our goal was to not just reseed and replant, but to attempt to really restore the land after construction, using native plants," Cunningham said. The affirmation that MSD's method worked well enough to attract a Bewick's wren is gratifying, she said.

In addition to birds, Woerner also has observed a diversity of wildlife near the plant. "There are turtles, frogs singing in spring, butterflies, dragonflies patrolling for mosquitoes, weasels, beavers and deer."

It is the abundance of birds that put the area on bird watchers' lists for the Christmas Count, the nation's oldest and largest wildlife inventory in the country. Woerner and other volunteers will be walking near the Floyds Fork plant, binoculars in hand. "Even a slow day birding there can be very enriching."



MSD

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Connect with MSD:

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Customer Service Online: www.msdlouky.org/customer
Speech- and hearing-impaired customers call: **540-6233**
Para hablar en espanol: **540-6423**
Entre 8 manana y 5 p.m. lunes a viernes

Inside Update

- Rare bird visits
Floyds Fork plant
- Infrastructure Research
sharpens focus
- Audit shows MSD
doing more with less
- Board chooses new vice chair

Board elects Dallenbach

Fred Dallenbach has been elected vice chair of MSD's Board.

Dallenbach was first appointed to MSD's Board in September 1997. In 2000 Mayor David Armstrong reappointed Dallenbach to his current three-year Board term, which will expire June 30, 2003. Dallenbach serves on the Board's policy and budget/audit committees. He owns Dallenbach Builders, Inc.

Dallenbach replaces former Vice Chair Dan R. Ison who resigned from the Board on Nov. 6.



Fred R. Dallenbach

Upcoming Events

November 19

Southwest County Community meeting, 7 p.m., Southwest Government Center, 7219 Dixie Hwy.

November 21

Public meeting, Jeffersontown Odor Control Plan, 7 p.m., 10416 Watterson Trail

Central Louisville Community meeting, 7 p.m., DuPont Manual High School, 120 W. Lee St.

November 25

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

November 28-29

Thanksgiving holiday. MSD offices are closed. For 24-hour service phone 587-0603

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