

LOJIC earns prestigious honor

The Louisville/Jefferson County Information Consortium has been named the 2003 Exemplary System in Government for Enterprise Systems for improving government efficiency and effectiveness through information technology.

The award was one of two Exemplary System in Government honors in the 23rd annual competition sponsored by the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA).

“LOJIC’s ability to accomplish a lot with limited resources and solid foundation of participating agencies have helped pave the way for 15 successful years of effective response to both consortium and community needs,” according to Award Review Chair Shoreh Elhami.

The competition was open to public agencies around the world at federal, state, regional and local levels. LOJIC’s nomination stood out from a field of 30-plus entrants in the Enterprise Systems category.

Metro Mayor Jerry Abramson praised LOJIC’s practical and collaborative use of information technology to make government more effective and efficient. “LOJIC, quite simply, is one of our community’s vital assets and real treasures,” Abramson said.

The LOJIC partnership of local agencies has built and maintained a community geographic information system. LOJIC’s funding members are Louisville Metro Government, Louisville Water Company, Property Valuation Administrator and MSD, where LOJIC is housed.

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“LOJIC demonstrates that government agencies can work in a collaborative fashion to provide cost-effective service to residents of our community.”

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lunes a viernes)

Rate changes include end of pool credit

To bring customer charges in line with the cost of providing services, MSD is eliminating swimming pool credits, phasing out optional wastewater rates for industrial customers and establishing capacity charges according to wastewater service area.

MSD is eliminating a credit for customers who own swimming pools beginning October 1. The credit was originally created to encourage customers not to discharge pool water to small treatment plants. “As the number of small treatment plants has declined, so has the need for the pool credit,” Finance Director Marion Gee said. MSD projects issuing about \$50,000 in pool credits this year.

Optional rates, currently offered only to industrial customers who discharge more than one million gallons of wastewater a day with below domestic-strength waste loadings, will be phased out over four years. By 2008, these industrial customers will be billed a volume charge per each thousand gallons discharged.

According to Gee, eliminating the optional rate will result in \$4.9 million in annual revenues from industrial customers.

Capacity charges, those fees collected from new MSD wastewater customers, will be calculated in the future according to MSD’s investment in each treatment plant.

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Upcoming Events

Sept. 27

Beargrass Creek Clean Sweep,
9 a.m., call 458-1328 for information
about gathering points

October 9

Retirees Club Meeting,
11 a.m., Masterson's Restaurant,
1830 South Third Street

October 13 and 27

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

MSD Milestones

The Louisville Minority Business Development Center named MSD the 2003 Corporate Sponsor of the Year for helping minority-owned businesses achieve their goals.

Certifiable Success

DiverseWorks for these recently certified businesses:

Thompson Distribution Co., Inc. (MBE)

Distributor of plumbing, electrical, HVAC, mill supplies, chemical, castings and other equipment and materials.

Contact: John Thompson,
317/923-2581

Engineered Solutions (WBE)

Electrical engineering services
Contact: Tori Obererhausen,
502/485-1515

B. T. Images/B. T.

Instrumentation (WBE)

Computer related services including information retrieval, relay and industrial control manufacturing, electronic computer manufacturing
Contact: Lisa Doucette, 502/933-1555

Area Team Project Roundup

Beargrass Creek: Project DRI will bring drainage relief to two neighborhoods, benefiting 69 properties.

To address standing water problems along **Klondike Lane**, \$152,494 in pipe and yard inlet systems will be constructed and driveway aprons will be replaced.

Front yard drainage will be enhanced along both sides of the 2800 block of **Wendell Avenue** and the 2300 block of **Emerson Avenue**, at a cost of \$79,678.

Floyds Fork and North County: The first phase of a comprehensive project that will extend sewer service to the northeast sector of Jefferson County will soon get underway. The \$2.4 million initial phase of the **Old Henry Road Pump Station and Force Main** project will install a pair of force mains across Midland and Valhalla golf courses. With work getting underway this fall, construction of phase one should be completed before the spring 2004 golf season begins.

Mill Creek: Work to connect 145 homes in **Claremore Acres** to sewer service also will feature drainage improvements that will positively impact 50 properties along **Bossier Lane and Mariemont Road**. More than two miles of sewer will be constructed, along with about a mile and a half of drainage improvements under the Project DRI partnership between Metro government and MSD. Construction should be finished by summer of 2004 at a cost of \$1.4 million.

Morris Forman Plant: Air compressors—critical to moving biosolids through the treatment process—will be replaced at the Morris Forman Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Primary air compressors generate high-pressure air for pumps to transport biosolids from primary wastewater treatment to solids processing. The existing air compressors were installed in the 1980s and are unreliable. Replacing them will cost about \$119,000.

Pond Creek Area: Roadside drainage improvements will reduce standing water in some **Pebblebrook Subdivision** streets and yards.

It's part of Project DRI, the Louisville Metro and MSD initiative to address the community's most pressing drainage problems.

Paved roadside swales and replacement of driveway aprons and culverts are planned along **Linda Road, Santa Paula Lane, Burnt Cedar Court and Cameo Court**. When construction is completed at a cost of \$73,843, 15 customer requests will be addressed and an additional 32 properties will benefit.



Project DRI at work

LOJIC earns... *continued from page 1*

In the award notification, URISA cited LOJIC's spirit of collaboration in day-to-day operations and in response to specific community needs. Examples include preparing 3,000 sets of maps following the March 1997 flood to aid evacuations and property damage assessments, and mapping 20,000 Brownfield sites for a 1995 inventory.

"LOJIC demonstrates that government agencies can work in a collaborative fashion to provide cost-effective service to residents of our community," according to MSD's Chief Information Officer Bruce Seigle. "We're honored with this recognition for the service we provide to our participating agencies and the citizens of Louisville Metro."

Founded in 1963, URISA is a worldwide non-profit professional organization that focuses on the use of geographic information systems and other technology to help governments meet the challenges of growing communities. There are nearly 7,000 members worldwide.

Customer First at Work

"Thank you for completing the drainage project on and around my property. Supervisor **Richard Schmeltz**, crew leader **Richard Young** and crew members **Greg Bissell**, **Dewayne Edwards** and **Mike Wilcox** treated our property as their own."
--F. Lynn Abrams, Valley Station, 40272

"Please express my thanks to MSD contractor **The Fishel Company** for an act of kindness not often seen. They went out of their way to help a carrier deliver mail during construction."
--Dennis Beam, supervisor, Middletown Post Office, 40243

"The workers on the project near my home are the best—thanks for keeping the worksite clean throughout construction."
--Maria Albertson, Valley Station, 40272

"Thanks for a job well done to **Tammy Moore** and **Sandy Schmitt**, and **Barbara Roberson** did a fantastic job handling my service request."
--Guyula Finn, Fern Creek, 40291

"MSD came through for me by solving the standing water issue near my home. **Kenny Gibson**, **Kevin Haycraft**, **Ronald Johnson** and **Mike Killkelly** did a great job. Meeting with **Tom Middeler** was very reassuring and **David Heady** did a great job running the project."
--Don Westerman, Highview, 40228

"Thanks to **Gregory Meriwether** and all involved with solving my drainage problem and filling in the cave-ins in my yard. I am very happy with the work."
--Billie Banks, Beechmont, 40214



Annual Beargrass Sweep is September 27

For the 13th consecutive year, volunteers will gather along Beargrass Creek to collect trash and debris.

The sweep begins at 9 a.m. at 11 Clean Sweep access points. Volunteers are urged to wear old clothes; work gloves will be provided. The sweep concludes after a complimentary lunch for volunteers at noon at Cox's Park.

Sweep sponsors include Kentucky Waterway Alliance, Louisville Nature Center, Metro Parks and MSD. For a complete list of sponsors and volunteer gathering locations, visit www.beargrasswatershed.org or phone 458-1328.



Rate changes... *continued from page 1*

Currently a uniform capacity fee is charged throughout MSD's service area. But the uniform fee does not reflect MSD's capital investment per gallon in its wastewater treatment plants. "MSD's investment costs vary significantly from plant to plant," Gee explained. "By setting capacity fees by service area, the equity would be improved by charging new customers for the cost incurred to serve them in specific service areas."

All of the changes are to become effective during the current fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2004. They are among the recommendations of a July 2003 rate study that indicated residential and industrial rates are out of balance under MSD's current rate structure.

"Industrial customers are subsidized by about \$4 million a year from residential customers because we have added 20,200 new residential customers since 1998," Gee said. "Changing these charges now moves our rate structure toward a better balance between our residential and industrial customers."



MSD

Louisville and Jefferson County
Metropolitan Sewer District

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Team takes on task to improve plant operations

Keeping Kentucky's largest municipal wastewater treatment plant running smoothly requires ongoing maintenance and repairs, and staying within the budget.

When one of the three oxygen generation areas at the Morris Forman Wastewater Treatment Plant needed a major overhaul after nearly 30 years in service, MSD's maintenance staff decided to pass on a contractor's estimated \$178,000 for the job.

"We didn't have the money in the budget," says Maintenance Manager James Dixon. "So we put our heads together and came up with a plan to do some of the work in-house and use a contractor to do the rest."

The overhaul included repairing leaks, rebuilding valves, re-insulating and calibrating instruments and controls. "It took about twice as long as planned, but we made additional repairs as we went along," Dixon said. The result is an additional 15.4 tons of oxygen produced daily for a critical stage of secondary wastewater treatment, expected to save about \$372,000 a year in liquid oxygen purchases.

The maintenance team—Jim Bridges, Travis Crabtree, John Honadel, Clarence Meredith, Randy Sutton and Claudette Thompson—along with the oxygen generation area operators at Morris Forman plan to begin a similar overhaul on another liquid oxygen area this fall.



Operator Claudette Thompson adjusts a cold box valve. Upgrades to the oxygen generation area at the Morris Forman plant have increased oxygen production by 35 percent.