

Plans proceed to market biosolids

MSD's Board has authorized a short-term marketing strategy that will pave the way to future marketing and selling of a land-use product made from dried biosolids.

"In my 20 years at MSD, there's been nothing that's this exciting for our board, our staff and our community," said Executive Director Bud Schardein. "This begins a unique opportunity to create a beneficial, reusable product and return something to our customers."

To learn how the biosolids may perform in the marketplace, MSD will provide biosolids to area businesses to use in a variety of ways. Through those relationships, MSD will be able to track the biosolids' use as a fertilizer component, in topsoil and compost production, as a fuel alternative to coal, and alone in both retail and wholesale venues.



MSD's biosolid pellets meet federal guidelines for use as a soil-enhancing product and were approved January 23 for land application by the Kentucky Division of Waste Management.

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Gibson, Griffith and Sutton named '04 Achievers

Sandra Gibson, Michael Griffith and Randy Sutton have something in common. They were named MSD's 2004 Achievers.

Gibson, Griffith and Sutton will join other Achievers representing Louisville-area companies and organizations in the Chestnut Street Family YMCA Black Achievers program. Since 1980, the Achievers program has partnered adults with youth in grades eight through 12. Adult Achievers, like Gibson, Griffith and Sutton, encourage children to pursue careers and higher education.

"Achievers are more than just mentors," said DiverseWorks Program Administrator Deby Mettling. "They open windows of possibilities to young people who otherwise may not have these opportunities. Achievers go beyond the call in daily life and are committed to making a positive impact."

For **Human Resources Benefits Specialist Sandra K. Gibson**, helping people get the most out of programs and policies is her job. She'll use that ability in working with young Achievers this year.



MSD's 2004 Achievers are (from left): Randy Sutton, West Region supervisor; Sandra K. Gibson, Human Resources benefits specialist; and Michael Griffith, Engineering field supervisor

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(Entre 8 mañana y 5 p.m.
lunes a viernes)

Upcoming Events

February 9

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

Public Meeting, South Crums Lane Drainage Improvement,
7 p.m., Southwest Government Center, 7219 Dixie Highway

February 12

Public Meeting, Orell Road Sewers and Drainage Improvement,
4 p.m., Southwest Government Center, 7219 Dixie Highway

February 23

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

MSD Milestones

We proudly announce: Board member **Audwin Helton** was named 2003 Business Achievement honoree by *The Louisville Defender*.

Congratulations on Promotions: **Jermaine Murphy** to Utility Worker III
Brett Parsons to Utility Worker II
William Summers to West Region Operator-in-Training

We Will Miss: **Ronald Harris**, Construction Crewleader, retiring January 31

Area Team News

Beargrass Creek: Drainage improvements are planned along **Carrie Drive** to relieve standing water in front yards along **Carrie, Richelle and Quinton drives**. The \$114,239 project will install nearly a mile of drainage pipe.

The second phase of drainage work along **Lynnview and Charlotte Ann drives** will address 17 customer requests. The \$79,015 project will relieve standing water in rear yards.

Ninety-five properties in the **Penway/Linwood area** will soon be connected to sanitary sewers. The \$294,911 project was ordered by the Louisville Metro Board of Health.

Standing water problems along **Pinewood Road** will be addressed with \$114,625 in drainage work as part of Project DRI, the partnership between Louisville Metro and MSD. Paved swales will be installed, impacting eight properties.

Mill Creek: Project DRI will construct more than a half-mile of roadside and rear yard drainage improvements along **Gloxinia and Seaforth drives**. The \$104,546 project will benefit about 40 properties.

More than a mile of sewer and about 1,000 feet of drainage improvements will be constructed in **Riverside Gardens East and along Lees Lane**. The \$1.1 million project will connect 80 properties to sewer service in Riverside Gardens East.

More than one mile of roadside and rear yard drainage improvements will be constructed along **West Pages Lane and Morning Glory Lane**. The \$308,319 project, part of the Project DRI partnership between Louisville Metro and MSD, will impact 60 properties.

Pond Creek: An undersized culvert on Filson Fork will be replaced with a larger one to reduce flooding along **Chesley Drive**. The \$113,367 project—part of Project DRI—will address long-standing customer requests.

A steep rear-yard drainage system will be improved, relieving standing water behind **Medtree Place, Carmelwood Circle and Coralwood Court**. The \$66,155 project—part of the Louisville Metro and MSD Project DRI partnership—will address eight customer requests and benefit 14 additional properties.

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Improving existing drainage systems, like this one in the Pond Creek Area, is part of the Project DRI partnership between Louisville Metro and MSD.

Pond Creek... *continued from page 2*

Roadside drainage facilities will be constructed along **Oakdale Lane** as part of Project DRI. The \$98,930 project will address 18 customer requests and impact 44 properties.

Project DRI will install drainage facilities along **Old Outer Loop and Okolona Terrace**. The \$115,625 project will address 18 customer requests and impact 50 properties.

More than 520 properties will be connected to sanitary sewers and benefit from drainage improvements along **Orell Road**. About nine miles of sewer and more than nine miles of drainage improvements will be constructed at a cost of \$6.8 million. The drainage work is part of the Project DRI partnership to address the community's worst drainage problems.

Drainage facilities will be constructed along **Spicewood Lane West**, addressing 28 customer requests and affecting about 48 properties. The \$119,585 project is part of Project DRI, the \$67-million partnership between Louisville Metro and MSD.

Gibson, Griffith and Sutton.. *continued from page 1*

With 10 years at MSD under her belt, Gibson sees her job as one of service. "It's important to build working relationships along the way so employees will feel comfortable contacting me with concerns," she said. As an Achiever, Gibson will take her relationship-building and leadership skills to a new level, helping young people realize their goals.

Engineering Field Supervisor Michael Griffith says being an Achiever is an opportunity to give back to the community. "I have been blessed time and time again," Griffith said. "I believe in sharing my blessings with those who need it most."

In his fifth year of service on the board of the Marion T. Hodge Center, Griffith says he looks for opportunities to promote growth and achievement among the community's African Americans. "But being named an Achiever is among the top achievements of my life."

West Region Supervisor Randy Sutton is an achiever on the job, serving as emergency response team captain and attaining state class III certification in wastewater treatment. In his off hours, Sutton is active at his church, assisting with various programs and plans to work in the youth music ministry.

But his selection as an Achiever is an honor he doesn't take lightly. "Being respected for one's identity and hard work is important not only for me but the world abroad," Sutton said. He credits the support of his family and co-workers for his success, and he'll take that support with him to work with young people in the Achiever program.

Gibson, Griffith and Sutton, along with other Achievers from the community, will be recognized at an awards banquet February 21. The event raises funds to support the program and sponsor more than \$1 million in scholarships for eligible high school seniors.

The Achievers program originated at New York City's Harlem Branch YMCA in 1971. The Chestnut Street YMCA is one of 135 participating sites nationwide.

*Editor's Note: 2003 Achiever, **Industrial Compliance and Monitoring Chemist Sam Bell**, was unable to participate in the program last year. As a first lieutenant with the U.S. Army Reserves' 394th Engineer Company, Bell's unit was called into active duty in 2003. Bell will participate in the 2004 Achiever program.*

Customer First at Work

"What started as an out-of-control nightmare is now manageable.

Howard Gant, Bryon Richardson and Ezell Smith saved me a lot of money and headache."

--Ruth Hathaway, West End, 40210

"Thanks to **Sandy Schmitt** for her quick response to my concern."

--Steven Harberger, Germantown, 40217

"Thank you to **William Baskette, Robert Day, David Heady and Brian Matheis** for the job well done on the sidewalk and drainage ditch near my home."

--Doris Preston, Okolona, 40219

"I am very pleased with the kind of service MSD employees give. When **Ezell Smith** came to inspect my property, he courteously explained everything and was very helpful."

--Arlene Kaufman, Cherokee Triangle, 40205





MSD

Louisville and Jefferson County
Metropolitan Sewer District

700 West Liberty Street
Louisville, KY 40203-1911



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Plans proceed.. *continued from page 1*

The biosolids product—named Louisville Green—is the result of the heat-drying solids system at the Morris Forman Wastewater Treatment Plant, where solids from all MSD treatment plants are processed. According to Executive Director Bud Schardein, the process yields about 80 tons of biosolid pellets every day that are currently disposed at a landfill.

Through the marketing investigation, MSD will provide the biosolids at no charge to fertilizer distributor A-J, Inc. and composting company Earth First of Kentuckiana. Louisville Gas & Electric Co. also will collect biosolids for tests as an alternative fuel for its coal-fired power plants. Additionally, in cooperation with the local Agricultural Extension Office, MSD hopes to provide biosolids to up to three area farmers.

Under the plan, A-J, Inc. will market and sell biosolid pellets both in bulk and bagged quantities to fertilizer manufacturers, golf courses, sod farms and retail outlets. Should the product generate revenue, MSD would receive 50 percent of the net.

While the other participants won't pay MSD for the pellets, Schardein said MSD will benefit by avoiding landfill disposal costs, currently more than \$22 per ton.

The biosolid pellets meet federal guidelines for use as a soil-enhancing product and were approved January 23 for land applications by the Kentucky Division of Waste Management.



The biosolids product name **Louisville Green** was chosen in an employee contest. Senior Technical Services Engineer Sharon Worley created the name while Biosolids Administrator Robert Bates designed the label.

Efforts ongoing to reduce sewer overflows

“Addressing combined sewer overflows will be an issue for the coming years.”

MSD is continuing efforts to keep wastewater moving through the sewer system to treatment plants during wet weather. It’s part of a long-term plan to control overflows from combined sanitary and stormwater sewers that serve most of the community located inside the Watterson Expressway.

Since 2000, cities with combined sewers have been required by law to develop strategies to reduce stream and river pollution by reducing the frequency of overflows. Since 1997, MSD’s long-term control plan to minimize sewer overflows and improve water quality has been on file with the Kentucky Division of Water.

Like most older cities, Louisville’s first sewers were built to collect both wastewater and stormwater. Combined sewers are larger than sewers built since the 1950s that transport only wastewater and separate sewers collect rainwater and runoff.

Louisville’s combined sewers serve the community’s oldest neighborhoods, including Crescent Hill, the Highlands, Old Louisville, Portland and much of downtown.

Until the Morris Forman Wastewater Treatment Plant was constructed in the 1950s, the community’s wastewater and stormwater were conveyed directly to the Ohio River.

As Louisville’s population grew and the community expanded through the early 1970s, all wastewater moved toward the Morris Forman plant through the network of combined sewers beneath the older neighborhoods. During heavy rains, the combined sewer collection and treatment system would become overwhelmed. To keep wastewater mixed with stormwater from backing up into homes, sewers discharge this overflow into Beargrass Creek and the Ohio River.

As part of its plan to reduce sewer overflows and improve water quality, MSD has spent nearly \$1 billion:

- Expanding wastewater treatment capacity by building the Floyds Fork Wastewater Treatment Plant in eastern Jefferson County and enlarging treatment capacities at the Cedar Creek, Hite Creek and West County treatment plants.
- Extending sanitary sewers to homes that had used on-site septic systems and to neighborhoods connected to small treatment plants, taking more than 300 inefficient, often polluting treatment plants out of service.
- Using new technologies to hold wastewater inside the sewer system instead of overflowing into streams when it rains.
- Upgrading wastewater treatment plants to improve efficiency and capacity, including more than \$100 million in improvements at the Morris Forman plant alone.
- Working directly with property owners to disconnect gutters, sump pumps and other devices that empty rainwater into sanitary and combined sewers.

MSD Executive Director Bud Schardein says the work will continue. “Addressing combined sewer overflows will be an issue for the coming years,” he said. Details about MSD’s progress to contain and treat wastewater will soon be posted on the Internet. Watch for the white paper report at www.msdlouky.org.



Locations along Beargrass Creek and the Ohio River where combined sewers overflow are marked by signs warning of discharge possibilities during heavy rains.



MSD

Floodplain management group reports progress

The 2003 progress report on the community's five-year floodplain management action plan is available on the Internet and at various locations throughout Louisville Metro.

The current plan, developed during 2000 by representatives of nearly 30 flood-related organizations, is an update of the community's 1996 floodplain management plan. The plan is required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community Rating System, administered locally by MSD.

The CRS program rates communities by their efforts to reduce flood damage, initiate mapping and regulatory plans, provide public information, and offer flood preparedness activities. A community's CRS rating impacts the cost of flood insurance for properties located in a floodplain.

Of the 10 CRS insurance rate classes, Louisville Metro is rated Class 6, qualifying owners of the more than 20,000 properties in a floodplain for a 20 percent reduction in flood insurance premiums.

The floodplain management plan reports progress in 2003 and outlines tasks for 2004 in:

- Regulations and preventive measures
- Property reduction and structural projects
- Emergency services and public outreach
- Natural resource protection

Copies of the progress report are available at the Louisville Free Public Library, 301 York St.; Metro Planning and Development, 531 Court Place, Room 900; Metro Emergency Management, 601 W. Jefferson, Suite 113; and MSD. It is available on the Internet at <http://www.msdlouky.org/programs/crssite/2003progreport.pdf>.

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After Work

MSD Retirees Club News

Members of MSD's Retirees Club don't hibernate during the winter. The club was visible at MSD's Holiday Extravaganza, staffing a display filled with photos of retiree activities in 2003. The annual holiday luncheon in December was well attended as the number of retirees continues to grow.

All MSD retirees are encouraged to become involved in the club. To learn how, contact **Retirees Club President Buddy Kaiser at 634-3874** or MSD's staff coordinator **Beverly Cox at 540-6377**.



Members enjoy fellowship at the holiday luncheon.



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