

Challenges for the community

Rehabilitating sewer system is one of three priorities

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles exploring challenges facing the community, and how MSD is working to resolve them.

Spring is welcomed in Louisville Metro after a long, cold winter. Along with longer days and warming temperatures, spring typically brings more rainfall than any other season.

At MSD, heavy rainfall is a reminder the community's sewer system includes combined sewers that collect both wastewater and stormwater. "Many of our older neighborhoods are served today by combined sewers that are more than a century old," said Executive Director Bud Schardein. "About 80 percent of all wastewater generated in Louisville Metro flows, by gravity, through the oldest sewers."

Despite their age, these sewers provide dependable service. But during heavy rains, they become overloaded and discharge a combined wastewater-and-stormwater overflow into streams and the Ohio River. "Designating overflow locations once was an accepted method to keep sewers from backing up into homes," Schardein noted. "Now most cities in the eastern U.S. are looking for ways to eliminate these discharges."

continued on page 3

MSD'S SEWER SYSTEM BY THE NUMBERS

Length (miles):3,000 +

Miles over 100 years old:500

Miles predating Civil War: ..100

Miles of combined sewers: ..700

Dollars spent since
1999 to eliminate
overflows (millions):\$150

Overflows eliminated:300

*"Combined and sanitary
sewer overflows are not
unique to Louisville."*

Alliance creates opportunity for certified firms

Four of the community's leading supplier diversity programs are working together to help minority- and woman-owned businesses succeed. This month, LG&E Energy, Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission, the Louisville Water Company and MSD will hold the group's second annual reception.

"Our goal is to assist in the creation of business opportunities for minority and woman business enterprises," said MSD's DiverseWorks Program Specialist René Thomas. Along with certified business owners, Thomas said buyers from the alliance companies, prime consultants and general contractors will participate. "It's a great opportunity for women and minorities to network directly with key decision-makers and explore possibilities," Thomas said.

The reception on April 14 begins at 5 p.m. at the Water Tower, 3005 Upper River Road. Mayor Jerry Abramson will kick off the event, along with LG&E Energy Senior Vice President Chris Hermann, Louisville Water Company President John Huber and MSD Executive Director Bud Schardein.

For details, contact René Thomas (phone: 540-6503; e-mail: thomas@msdlouky.org).

CONNECT WITH MSD

502-540-6000

24/7 Customer Service:
587-0603

www.msdlouky.org

TDD/TTY: 540-6233

En español: 540-6423
(Entre 8 mañana y 5 p.m.
lunes a viernes)



MSD

Upcoming Events

April 7
DiverseWorks for You
Certification Orientation, 9 a.m.
700 W. Liberty, first floor

April 11
MSD Board Meeting, 10 a.m.,
700 W. Liberty, first floor

April 14
Show Me the Opportunity
reception for certified businesses,
5 p.m., Water Tower, 3005 River Road

April 25
MSD Board Meeting, 10 a.m.,
700 W. Liberty, first floor

Customer First at Work

"The damaged cleanout lid I reported in the morning was replaced by that night. Thanks, June Rowan, for making sure this was taken care of quickly!"
--Angie Beckman, Jeffersonton

"My compliments to Butch Attebury, Fred Hollon, Victor Palmarini, Brett Parsons and Donnie Riddle for their hard work and good effort on repairing a blocked sewer line near my home."
--Bill Brickley, Germantown

"I would like to thank Sheila Irvin, Tammy Moore and Barbara Roberson for their help in securing a metal plate on my street. They resolved the issue promptly!"
--Ms. Hester, Hikes Point

Certifiable Success

DiverseWorks for this certified business:
Software House International, Inc. (M/WBE)
Computer network, hardware, software and peripherals; computer procurement and outsourcing
Contact: Grace Murphy, 888/764-8888

Area Team News

Morris Forman Wastewater Treatment Plant:

Bio-trickling scrubber technology will reduce odorous air and cut operating costs by more than \$500,000 a year. The \$1.1 million system will replace two fume incinerators that cost approximately \$635,000 a year to operate. One of the existing fume incinerators will remain as a back up system and the other will be decommissioned.

Regulatory Management Services:

The second phase of installing Real Time Control technology will enhance control of wet-weather sewer flows in the Morris Forman collection system. Flows from four combined sewer overflows along Beargrass Creek will be diverted to storage, and controls will be installed to integrate operations of the Wheeler Basin, Southwest Pump Station and Morris Forman plant's main diversion structure into the Real Time Control System. Cost for the civil engineering design and computer programming for this phase is \$1.26 million.



Drainage Response Initiative Projects

The Project DRI partnership between Louisville Metro and MSD is solving drainage problems throughout the community. These projects are ready for construction:

Beargrass Creek: Standing water problems will be relieved with the installation of a valley gutter in the right-of-ways on **Concord Drive** and **Sherry Road**. The project will cost \$87,000.

Installing pipe, yard drain inlets and catch basins, and replacing driveway aprons will relieve standing water problems in the **Girard Drive** area, including Whitlock Street and a part of the 6000 block of Loretta Street. The project will cost \$134,821.80.

Pond Creek/Mill Creek: An \$83,000 project will improve drainage along the side yards of **Farmers Lane** properties. The installation of a two foot paved drainage channel will address two customer requests.

Drainage improvements in the **Hudson/Stout** area will address six customer requests and benefit 38 properties. The \$63,750 project will install roadside facilities along Hudson Lane from Ferrer Way to Roman Drive.

Twenty-six properties along **La Fon and Zelma Fields avenues** will be affected by the installation yard drainage facilities. The \$65,746 project addresses nine customer requests.

Poor roadside drainage facilities will be improved along **Mud Lane**, benefiting 41 properties and resolving nine customer requests. The \$151,040 project will regrade roadside channels and replace or clean heavily silted roadside facilities.

Standing water will be relieved along **Nancy Lane**, between Maryman Road and Lila Avenue, with the installation of roadside drainage facilities. The \$91,875 project will affect 41 properties and address 18 customer requests.

Installing drainage facilities will reduce standing water in the **Strive Lane** area, particularly along Feyhurst Drive and Kena Lane. When completed, the \$54,288 project will resolve four customer requests and affect 26 properties.

A \$123,980 project will improve drainage in the **Wilton and Carlton drives** neighborhood. Installing drainage facilities and replacing driveway aprons will address 16 customer requests and affect 55 properties.

Challenges... *continued from page 1*

Even newer neighborhoods in Louisville Metro are prone to sewer overflows. Even though the wastewater and stormwater lines are separated, many were hastily constructed. “They were built to substandard specifications and were undersized to meet the population’s needs,” Schardein said. “During prolonged rains, they become overloaded and, to prevent sewer backups, they either discharge or are pumped into streams.”

More than 200 of these private sewer systems were acquired by MSD since 1980, and reducing these sanitary sewer overflows has become a challenge.

Since the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, most of the nation’s oldest cities—including Louisville—are looking for ways to eliminate these discharges. “Combined and sanitary sewer overflows are not unique to Louisville,” Schardein said. “Already many cities are under federal or state directives to eliminate these discharges.”

To reduce the number and frequency of wastewater discharges, MSD has spent more than \$150 million since 1999 to eliminate 300 combined and sanitary sewer overflows. Schardein said MSD is negotiating with the Kentucky Division of Water on a plan to address the remaining overflows. Such a program could take up to 20 years to complete and cost more than \$500 million.

“Our goal remains to construct the most cost effective projects that not only meet more stringent water quality standards, but also that use a common sense approach that does not place undue financial burdens on all our customers,” Schardein said.



Since 1999, MSD has spent more than \$150 million to eliminate sewer overflows into the community's streams.

Recognition that’s well deserved

Employees perform beyond expectations

Thirty employees were recognized with the Exceptionally Achieves honor, the highest rating an MSD staffer can attain.

All of those earning the Exceptionally Achieves rating were recommended by their supervisors, and approved by the MSD Board Personnel Committee. “Each of you is an integral part of this organization’s success,” said Personnel Committee Chair Al Brunner.

Recognized as Exceptionally Achieves were: **Ben Auclair, Robert Bates, Rebecca Bennett, Robin Bowling, John Braun, John Brown, Kevin Bright, Bill Chamberlain, Tom Clark, Kathy Cooksie, Beverly Cox, Janice Cox, James Emily, David Heady, Ron Henderson, Sheila Irvin, Craig Jones, Pat Kirk, Russell Kopp, Gary Morrison, Kathy Myers-Rickenbach, Brad Phelps, McKinley Reed, Bud Schardein, Richard Schmeltz, Bruce Seigle, Steve Snawder, Dennis Thomasson, Jeff Vessels and Sharon Worley.**

Project DRI Progress

Through March 21, 2005, the Project DRI partnership between Louisville Metro and MSD completed or started nearly 77 percent of planned drainage improvements since Project DRI began in January 2003.

MSD Milestones

We’re proud to announce: The American Council of Engineering Companies—Kentucky Chapter recognized the Alternative Solids Process at the Morris Forman Wastewater Treatment Plant as 2005’s Grand Conceptor project.

The Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies recognized the Floyds Fork and West County wastewater treatment plants with Peak Performance Gold Awards for achieving 100 percent NPDES permit compliance during 2003. The Cedar Creek and Jeffersontown plants received Peak Performance Silver Awards with fewer than five NPDES permit violations during 2003.

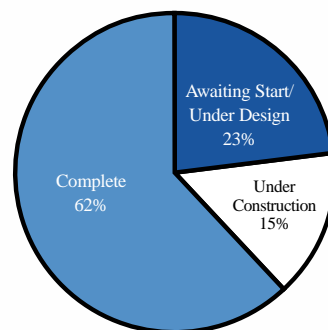
The Morris Forman plant met all permit obligations for the 12 months ending February 28.

Welcome to MSD:
James Bryant, Risk & Benefits Manager
Brian Hess, Utility Trainee
John Brown, Utility Trainee
Kevin Darnall, Operator-In-Training

Congratulations on your promotions:
Richard Blaisdell, Utility Leader
Ron Lockridge, Utility Worker III
Charles Woods, Utility Worker II
Brian Sivado, Materials Specialist

Changing the pace:
Jason Watson, Sewer Maintenance
Bobbie Wilson-Kapple, Support Services

We will miss:
Danny Rhyne, Utility Leader, retiring 3/31
David Seng, Master Maintenance Electrician, retiring 3/31
Lee Hatchett, Utility Leader, retiring 4/30





MSD

Louisville and Jefferson County
Metropolitan Sewer District

700 West Liberty Street
Louisville, KY 40203-1911



Printed on 30% post-consumer
content paper

© COPYRIGHT 2005
Louisville and Jefferson
County Metropolitan Sewer
District. LOJIC map data
copyrighted by the Louisville
and Jefferson County
Metropolitan Sewer District
and the Louisville Water
Company. All Rights Reserved.

Rebate aims to clear backyard air



Jefferson County residents can help clear the air and get up to \$100. It's part of Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District's Lawn Care Rebate program.

By trading in a gas-powered mower or lawn tools, residents are offered rebates toward the purchase of electric, battery or reel-powered equipment. The program offers standard rebates year round, but bonus rebates are offered from March 1 through September 30.

According to the Air Pollution Control District, operating a gas-powered lawn mower for an hour produces the same amount of smog-forming hydrocarbons as driving a car almost 200 miles in typical driving conditions.

For details about the rebate program, call 574-6000 or visit www.apcd.org/kaire on the Internet.

MSD working out

To help improve employee health, MSD has opened a fitness center.

Located in the Central Maintenance Facility on Cane Run Road, the center features a range of equipment, from boxing bags to treadmills. After completing a 30-minute training, employees may use the center seven days a week, from 6 a.m. to midnight.

Open just five weeks, the fitness center already is getting a workout from employees trying to get into a fitness routine, according to Nannette Edwards, loss control administrator in the Safety Department. "Employees are coming in early, working out during lunch or staying late to enjoy the equipment," Edwards said.

MSD provides the fitness center as a benefit to employees.



Rick Watkins demonstrates the treadmill to Saeed Assef. Photo by Allen Adams.