

October 14, 1999

Retirees' legacy celebrated at farewell event

More than 500 MSD employees and their families filled the Kentucky Derby Museum Sept. 30 in a festive send-off for the 180 MSD employees who accepted the early retirement incentive.

The 180 early retirees take with them more than four thousand years of MSD experience, estimated Emergency Response Coordination Director Bud Schardein, who served as the event's master of ceremonies.

While some left active service as early as May, most marked their last day at MSD on September 30, including Community Relations Coordinator Ronnie Brown. "Four hours of retirement feels fantastic," Brown said.

IWD Inspection Coordinator Dan Knowles said leaving MSD earlier that day "felt pretty good. I had thought it would be strange, walking out the door for the last time." Knowles said he'll miss his coworkers, but thought the retirement event's location fit his personal retirement plans. "I'll be spending winters in Florida and spring and fall meets here at the track," he said.

GIS Records Technician Bonnie Graves looks forward to retiree status. "I never dreamed that at 48 I'd be retiring-this is like a gift," Graves said. Her husband, Don, retired from MSD in May and they plan to travel together. She said she's also looking forward to sleeping in. "I know that tomorrow morning I don't have to get up at 5:30," she said.

Sampling Technician Gary Taylor said leaving MSD for the last time was hard. He's worked at MSD since graduating from high school, following his dad, I.G. Taylor who retired from MSD in 1979. "I told Gary it'd be better if he'd go on and build up more security," said I.G. who joined Gary at the event. But Gary's ready to spend more time with his family.

Revenue Administrator Dale Cox marked his retirement by wearing a Hawaiian shirt, jeans and tennis shoes. Ed Abner, the former budget officer who retired four months ago, gives early retirement two thumbs up. "I played golf today," he beamed. "I'll probably play again tomorrow."

July retiree Patty Shearer has become "a PTA queen." She began working at MSD when the oldest of her five children, now 26, was three years old, and very few women worked at MSD. "It was the beginning of a new era then, and now more women have become involved," Shearer recalled.

After Land Acquisition Administrator David Benedict retired in July, he did absolutely nothing for eight weeks. When he took the family cat to the vet, "I jokingly asked if the clinic had an opening," Benedict laughed. Now he works four days a week as a veterinary technician at Pewee Valley Animal Clinic.

Executive Secretary Susie Comstock, retired since August, considers going back to school. "I'm doing only what I want when I want to do it," she said.

Since Special Projects Engineer Bob Radford retired in June, he's played or practiced golf every day. A couple of days a week, he works for his wife, realtor Betty Radford. He also takes Spanish classes, rebuilt a fence on his property and spends time with his grandchildren. "I've found that now that I'm retired there's not enough time to get everything done," Radford lamented.

The event featured dinner and video interviews with retirees broadcast on screens throughout the museum. IWD Supervisor Patrick Fitzgerald performed a song he wrote in honor of retirees and remaining MSD staff. "I will not forget this time. . .now it's time to say good-bye and move myself along. I'm leaving, this time I'm leaving for good. . .baby, you knew I would." To the tune of *New York, New York* Fitzgerald sang, "I want to be a part of it: E-R-I-P."

"Thank all of you for your dedication to MSD," Board Chair Reba Doutrick told retirees. "I hope you are as proud to be a part of this organization as I am."

Executive Director Gordon R. Garner described the event and departure of retirees as emotional. "We're part of a legacy that began years ago, and there are a handful of people in the room who started MSD," Garner said. "There's a dedication and commitment from the people at MSD who are retiring, and that's what's built MSD. We are successful and we couldn't have done it without you. I'm gratified by what you've done and optimistic about what you're going to do next."

An MSD employee, who asked to be quoted anonymously, sighed wishfully as the event concluded, "Wish it was me!"

Upcoming Events

Oct. 21-Public Meeting, South Fork Dry Bed Drainage Improvement Project, 7 p.m., Kennedy Metro Middle School, 4215 Taylorsville Rd.

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

Oct. 26-Public Meeting, U.S. EPA XL Project in Chenoweth Run, 7:30 p.m., Jeffersontown Public Library meeting room, 10635 Watterson Trail.

First-ever LOJIC street atlas available at MSD

The Louisville/Jefferson County Information Consortium (LOJIC) has created a full-color street atlas of Jefferson County. This is the first time LOJIC data has been used to create a street grid atlas.

The LOJIC Street Atlas will replace the MAPSCO atlas now used in various applications by MSD staff. Programming changes have been completed to reference the new atlas in various MSD applications and databases.

MSD staff and departments can order copies of the LOJIC atlas through written request to Tim Schultz in GIS Records (email: schultzt@msdlouky.org, phone: 540-6624). Include a listing of employees who will be receiving the book or the vehicle number if the atlas will be placed in an MSD vehicle.

The LOJIC atlas is available to Update readers and MSD employees for personal use for \$15.90 (includes sales tax) from Jane Poole in LOJIC. To arrange for a purchase or for more information, contact Jane Poole at 540-6435 or poole@lojic.org.



MSD

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As these co-workers leave their MSD careers for new challenges or well-earned relaxation, we recognize their commitment to our customers, our community and our organization. We thank them for their service and wish them the best.

William L. Alvey, Mechanical Maintenance Supervisor, 27 years' service
"When I think of Bill, I think of All State. With him you were always in good hands. He was the go-to guy and would always get the job done."-Tom Kershner, Maintenance Administrator

John W. Ash, Jr., Assistant Telespection Supervisor, 26 years' service
"John was a dedicated employee who seldom missed work."- Tom Middeler, Sewer/Flood Protection Administrator

John D. Benningfield, Construction Crewleader, 23 years' service
"John always did beautiful work and customers were constantly complimenting his effort."-Sandy Schmitt, Drainage Scheduler

George W. Bullard, Construction Crewleader, 22 years' service
"George's drainage experience will be hard to replace."-Dave Johnson, Maintenance Director

Linda M. Cash, Stock Clerk, 21 years' service
"Linda was one you could rely on to cover when someone was needed."-Rick Watkins, Support Services Supervisor

Michael W. Cheatham, Equipment Operator II, 25 years' service
"Mike's operating ability was a great asset to MSD."-Tom Middeler, Sewer/Flood Protection Administrator

"Mike had a great deal of experience in Drainage that will be sorely missed."-Dave Johnson, Maintenance Director

James Michael Clark, Stormwater Drainage Supervisor, 24 years' service
"Mike was the kind of person that could make you go 'hmmm' yet he had his way of getting the job done and assisting others."-Kenny Morton, Stormwater Drainage Supervisor

Wayne A. Dunn, Stormwater Drainage Supervisor, 24 years' service
"Wayne's long-term field experience will be hard to replace in a new supervisor."-Dave Johnson, Maintenance Supervisor

Carol J. Frakes, Maintenance Clerk, 23 years' service
"Carol made sure that the service request got to the right people."-Rick Watkins, Support Services Administrator

Gary W. Frank, Junior Operator, 21 years' service
"With blood pressure never above zero, he was always cool under fire and rolled with the flow."-Rhonda Hayes, Senior Operator

Rodger D. Geary, Equipment Operator II, 18 years' service
"Rodger's experience as an equipment operator was recognized by all those he worked with."-Dave Johnson, Maintenance Director

Wayne R. Grant, Sewer Maintenance Supervisor, 24 years' service
"Wayne's knowledge and experience was very valuable to MSD. I'm sure he'll apply this knowledge in Aruba!"-Tom Middeler, Sewer/Flood Protection Administrator

James D. Gutterman, Support Services Supervisor, 24 years' service
"Jim's knowledge and experience will be hard to replace"-Rick Watkins, Support Services Manager

Frances Ellen Hanaver, Administrative Coordinator, 21 years' service
"Ellen always knew where to find any documentation associated with MSD. We really miss that."-James Riley, MFWTP Operations Manager

Christopher Harten, Stormwater Drainage Supervisor, 23 years' service
"Kip was very knowledgeable about construction as related to drainage, and listened to his staff and customers alike."-Tom Middeler, Sewer/Flood Protection Administrator

Judy Haun, Drainage Scheduler, 22 years' service
"Judy was an effective and hard worker. She was dependable in getting back with info that was requested."-Bolden Rose, Public Affairs Assistant

Jane H. Herm, Storeroom/Inventory Supervisor, 23 years' service
"Jane wouldn't take anything from the guys; she gave it right back."-Dave Johnson, Maintenance Director

Buddy T. Logsdon, Utility Leader, 18 years' service
"An experienced and dedicated crewleader, Buddy will be missed."-Dave Johnson, Maintenance Director

Joseph R. Mattingly, Support System Specialist, 24 years' service
"Joe was a dedicated member of the IT support group."-John Hawkins, PC Support Supervisor

Douglas M. McCrocklin, Sewer Maintenance Supervisor, 22 years' service
"Doug was willing to take on new things and make them happen."-Tom Middeler, Sewer/Flood Protection Administrator

Thomas D. Niehoff, Equipment Operator II, 25 years' service
"Tom was an excellent operator whose field experience will be hard to replace."-Dave Johnson, Maintenance Director

"Tommy's ability made him one of the best equipment operators I've had the pleasure of working with."-Tom Middeler, Sewer/Flood Protection Administrator

Caroline L. Sansota, Secretary, 24 years' service
"There are certain women in our lives that we rely on and often don't show appreciation for. As it relates to us, we added Caroline to that list."-Roddy Williams, Wet Weather/Water Quality Team Leader

James H. Sefcovic, Sewer Maintenance Supervisor, 24 years' service
"Jim was always there when MSD needed him."-Dave Johnson, Maintenance Director

Gary W. Seigle, Area Team Field Inspector II, 26 years' service
"Gary worked well with the contractors."-Dave Schaftlein, Pond Creek Area Team Leader

James W. Stewart, Utility Worker III, 26 years' service
"You could depend on Jim for the special projects."-Rick Watkins, Support Services Administrator

Donald L. Sublett, Senior Operator, 23 years' service
"Don came to work everyday, did his job, and took care of business."-David Carty, Regional Manager

Charles E. Walton, Construction Crewleader, 25 years' service
"Chuck could be counted on to do the job right."-Dave Johnson, Maintenance Director