

## Y2K contingency plan readies MSD for New Year

When midnight strikes on Jan. 31 and 1999 becomes 2000, predictions of what the New Year will bring range from global chaos to quiet choruses of Auld Lang Syne and champagne toasts.

Whatever occurs when 1999 slips into 2000, MSD has been preparing for the new century to ensure that its computerized systems continue to operate without interruption of services to its customers.

For nearly two years a seven-member team has examined the district's computer systems, identifying potential glitches and resolving them. "Our customers can be assured that we will be able to provide sewer service regardless of the date," according to Chief Information Officer Bruce Seigle who headed the team's efforts.

Because MSD depends on other utilities and services in order to perform its work, MSD developed a Y2K contingency plan enabling staff to monitor and respond to external factors that could create problems for MSD's operations and service.

The contingency plan is a common sense approach to responding to power outages and other problems that could arise when computerized clocks rollover from 1999 to 2000, according to Emergency Response Coordination Director Bud Schardein. "This plan has been developed using a typical three-day rain and ice storm as an event that could disrupt power or accessibility to outlying MSD facilities, such as treatment plants and pumping stations," Schardein said.

A five-person volunteer team will staff MSD's Disaster Response Center beginning at 10:30 p.m. Dec. 31. The center will remain staffed until it is determined that all MSD facilities are operational after midnight or City/County Disaster and Emergency Services requests continued assistance. An emergency generator has been installed and tested to ensure that the Disaster Response Center continues to operate if power outages occur.

Field Operations and Maintenance personnel are scheduled to staff key sites in MSD's system from 10:30 p.m. Dec. 31 through 6 a.m. Jan. 1. MSD currently maintains 207 sanitary pump stations, 27 regional and package wastewater treatment plants and 16 flood pumping stations. Schardein said 23 sanitary pump stations have been identified as critical or vulnerable, and emergency power sources are available to those locations should there be a power interruption. Maintenance crews will inspect operations of these facilities beginning at midnight Dec. 31.

All of MSD's treatment plants and pump stations will be assessed throughout the New Year's weekend, he said.

Ohio River flooding and widespread electrical power disruption could be a worst-case Y2K scenario because the 16 flood pumping stations along the river depend on electrical power and are too large to be serviced by back-up generators. "Should there be Ohio River flooding during the year-end rollover, it will not be a surprise event," Schardein said. "Stepping up the flood protection system is done gradually over several days; there should be sufficient time to respond to weather conditions during the rollover. Currently the river is at normal levels and not close to flood stage."

To ensure that MSD staff can communicate with one another and other response agencies, radios have been issued. "Radios aren't date-driven and should operate normally if conventional and wireless phone systems are overloaded or inoperable," Schardein said.

The contingency plan also requires all MSD vehicles and equipment that operate on gasoline and diesel fuel be filled before Dec. 30, according to Schardein. As feasible, equipment and vehicles will be fueled and taken out of routine service sooner, in case filling stations become crowded as the general public anticipates year-end problems at the pumps.

Richard Bartlett, Emergency Management Administrator for Louisville/Jefferson County, called MSD's Y2K contingency plan "an outstanding document." Bartlett said the plan took into account numerous scenarios that could impact its operations, and devised reasonable approaches to resolve them.

### Upcoming Events

Dec. 31-New Year Holiday. MSD offices are closed. For 24-hour emergency service phone 587-0603

Jan. 10-MSD Board Meeting, 10 a.m., 700 W. Liberty, first floor AND Public Meeting, Valley Downs Sanitary Sewer Project, 7 p.m., Southwest Government Center courtroom, 7219 Dixie Hwy.

Jan. 11-Public Meeting, Clayton Rd. Sanitary Sewer Project, 7 p.m., Atherton High School library, 3000 Dundee Rd.

Jan. 13-Public Meeting, 2700 W. Chestnut Drainage Improvement Project, 7 p.m., Bethlehem Apostolic Church, 2205 W. Broadway



### Mill Creek watershed area

#### Board approves two sewer projects

A pair of projects will extend sewer service to neighborhoods in the Mill Creek watershed area.

**The Big Run Sanitary Sewer and Drainage Improvement Project** will connect 149 properties in the Lower Hunters Trace area to sanitary sewer service and enhance drainage in the neighborhood. Nearly 14,000 feet of sewer line will be constructed, along with drainage work that includes 3,350 feet of drainage pipe and 7,500 feet of paved or earthen ditch.

MAC Construction and Excavating, Inc., New Albany, will perform the work for \$1.3 million. The project is expected to take less than a year to complete.

**The Margo Avenue Collectors Sanitary Sewer Project** will provide sewer service to 150 properties in the Greenwood Road area just off of Dixie Highway.

Plans call for construction of more than 16,000 feet of sewer line. The project also includes roadside drainage improvements.

Sang Corporation, Louisville, will construct the project for \$1.4 million. The project is expected to be completed in about one year.



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## Understanding, respect and fun highlight Cultural Extravaganza

Most days the assembly rooms at the Seventh Street Yards are used by MSD's Drainage Department for training in first aid and confined spaces techniques.

On Dec. 10 the space was transformed into a combination of international cafeteria, winter wonderland and Hollywood-style entertainment palace as the Seventh Street Yards hosted MSD's fourth annual Cultural Extravaganza.

This was the first time the annual event, sponsored by MSD's Workforce Diversity Council (WDC), was held away from MSD's main office on West Liberty. "It's starting out to be a great success," said WDC member and Beargrass Creek Area Team Coordinator Tori Coward. "There's more room to spread out so we can accommodate more people, and the number of international booths has increased from 10 last year to 15," she said.

New to this year's event were exhibits representing the cultures of China, France, Ireland, Malaysia and Scotland. The international displays included photographs, artwork and clothing from the various countries.

Each featured cultural foods including buffalo meat with squash casserole at the Native American exhibit, petit fours and quiche at the France display, salmon and soda bread served at the Ireland and Scotland booth, and borscht, a sweet beet concoction, represented Russia.

"This event gives everyone a chance to get together comfortably, sample the food and recognize each other's culture because we all have to work together," said Jamaica native Tony Watson, who works in planning and inventory. "It's a way for people to understand and appreciate you. What you eat, your accent and how you dress are now secondary at MSD thanks to the Extravaganza," he said.

While MSD employees and their families browsed the displays and sampled the foods, the adjacent assembly area featured entertainment. Live video feeds were projected on a giant screen so no one could literally miss a beat.

Among the performers were Santa's Little Yelpers-Curt Bynum (LOJIC), Kristy Southard (Records), Patrick Fitzgerald (IWD) and Mike Sweeney (ICAM). The group performed holiday classics and original tunes composed specifically for the Extravaganza.

One soon-to-be classic explored the reasons why MSD employees don't receive holiday gifts and featured guest artist Gordon Garner as Santa. "I would have stopped at MSD but there was no place to park," Santa Garner explained in the song.

A standing-room-only crowd gathered for a performance by the E-Team. "Forget Atlantic City and Vegas," Emergency Response Coordination Director Bud Schardein said to introduce the

group. "The E-Team's playing the big room at Seventh Street!"

Decked in antlers and lighted red noses, the E-Team sang *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* while joining Garner in the reindeer dance, which he introduced last year. After a rousing ovation from the audience, the E-Team performed an encore chorus of the holiday favorite while hoofing in a kick line.

"I thought it was a great performance," said retiree Pat Carver. "It showed me how much talent the E-Team really has."

Human Resources Manager Kathy Cooksie called the performance "a real polished act and a team effort."

"I love to see the big bosses make fools of themselves," said an MSD employee who asked to remain anonymous. "It lets the rest of us know how far they'll go for this organization—they should do it every year."

Safety/ERT Administrator Allan Adams called the E-Team's effort "well directed and well choreographed."

"It was the performance of the year, the century and the millennium," summed up Board Chair Reba Doutrick. "It will be hard to top next year."

## Quick action helps protect watershed

When a hazardous materials incident occurs in Jefferson County, personnel from MSD's Industrial Compliance and Monitoring (ICAM) Division are among those who respond. Their goal is to keep the hazardous materials out of the storm and sanitary sewer collection systems while minimizing the incident's impact on the surrounding environment.

When a tanker truck hauling 7,500 gallons of diesel fuel overturned on the afternoon of Nov. 24, the Camp Taylor Fire Department declared a Level 2 hazardous materials incident (Level 3 incidents are the most severe). MSD's ICAM team joined other emergency-response agencies at the site.

"The immediate goal was to contain the diesel fuel," said Tom Spalding, Inspection/Enforcement Supervisor. The truck had lost 56 gallons of fuel in the accident. Because the truck was fully loaded, Spalding said it was possible that more fuel may have been released during the off-loading process, potentially impacting MSD's collection system and the Beargrass Creek watershed.

Industrial Waste Field Operations Administrator Patrick Fitzgerald made sure that didn't happen. Patrick worked with MDS maintenance crews to get a plug into a nearby storm sewer that drains into a creek. "This was a preventive measure to protect the watershed while everyone else went to work off-loading the tanker truck that was overturned," Spalding said.

Because damage to the tank was minimal, the remaining fuel was successfully transferred from the overturned truck to another tanker within hours. No other problems occurred while the site was remediated.

"Diesel fuel wasn't made for sewers, streams or the environment," Spalding said. "The potential for damage to the watershed was great, and the quick action to plug the storm sewer would have minimized the environmental impact if the off-loading operation lost control of the fuel," according to Spalding.

"MSD's response team had a great success that day, thanks in part to ICAM and Maintenance personnel."

