

Pipeline

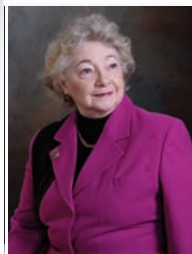
OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2008

Starks Elected Chair of WSSC Gene Counihan to serve as Vice Chair

Commissioner Joyce Starks is the new Chair of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC). A veteran member of the Commission from Prince George's County, Chair Starks was elected to the position in July by a majority of the six Commissioners. A Commissioner since February 2004, she previously served as Chair from June 2004 to June 2005.



Commissioner Gene Counihan, from Montgomery County, is the newly elected Vice Chair.



Chair Starks is working to bolster the WSSC Water Fund which provides relief to customers who are having difficulty paying their water and sewer bill. "I'm working on some creative ideas to build that fund so we can help more people in these difficult economic times."

Vice Chair Counihan, a former state legislator was appointed as a Commissioner in October 2007. He brings to the Commission his knowledge of budget and the legislative processes as well as strong community involvement.

Outgoing Chair Adrienne Mandel continues to serve on the Commission from Montgomery County. She said: "We face steep challenges but our tasks can and will be accomplished when we act together as a team. I'm optimistic Chair Starks will continue efforts to implement both the symbolism of our logo and the tenets of our important mission as the governing body of WSSC."

Dr. Roscoe M. Moore, Jr. is the third Commissioner from Montgomery County. Dr. Juanita D. Miller and Prem Agarwal are the other two Commissioners from Prince George's County.

Damascus and Four Other Plants Win Prestigious Awards

The Damascus Wastewater Treatment Plant won the National Association of Clean Water Agencies' (NACWA) Platinum Peak Performance Award for the eighth straight year. The award is presented annually to facilities that achieved 100 percent compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination system permits over a period of five years or more. Damascus is one of only 103 facilities in the nation to earn this honor in 2008.



NACWA presented Gold Peak Performance Awards to the Seneca and the Parkway Wastewater Treatment Plants. Gold Awards are presented to plants that achieve 100 percent compliance with the facility's permits for an entire year.

Silver awards were presented to the Piscataway and Western Branch Wastewater Treatment Plants. Silver Awards are presented to plants that achieved no more than five violations within a calendar year.



Commissioners

Prem P. Agarwal
Gene W. Counihan
Adrienne A. Mandel
Dr. Juanita D. Miller
Norman E. Pruitt
Joyce Starks

Interim General Manager
Teresa D. Daniell

14501 Sweitzer Lane
Laurel, MD 20707

www.wsscwater.com

General Numbers:
301-206-WSSC (9772)
1-800-828-6439
TTY: 301-206-8345

To report a water or
sewer emergency:
301-206-4002

WSSC provides water
and wastewater services
to Montgomery and
Prince George's counties.

We are entrusted
by our community
to provide safe
and reliable water, life's
most precious resource,
and return clean water
to the environment,
all in a financially
responsible manner.



20% post-consumer content



COMING SOON!

In our continuing effort to provide you with great customer service, we are launching a new Customer Notification System (CNS) to alert you about

WSSC-related incidents in your area that may affect your service or daily routine.

Later this fall, you can register your cell phones and e-mail addresses to receive alerts about WSSC-related news taking place near your home or office. You can choose to receive notifications about water main breaks, WSSC-related traffic backups, and even our annual budget hearings. The service is **FREE** but your cell phone provider's text message rates do apply.

Keep an eye on wsscwater.com for the CNS logo and a special announcement when the system becomes available. You can also e-mail communications@wsscwater.com to receive news when CNS is launched.



Reduce sewer backups and overflows: **Can the Grease!**

The holidays are prime occasions for sewer back-ups and overflows caused by fats and other foods disposed of down the drain. Holiday meals often consist of gravies (made from fats), sauces (made from butter), and just plain old turkey and beef juices (which have fat). Pour cooled grease into an empty can and then save the grease in the freezer for another day or toss the can in the trash. If you spot a manhole overflowing, call (301)206-4002 or toll free (800) 828-6439.

Remember to CAN THE GREASE!

Public Hearings Scheduled on FY10 Preliminary Proposed Capital and Operating Budget

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission has approved the following dates to hold public hearings on the FY'10 Preliminary Proposed Capital and Operating Budget.

Wednesday, February 4, 2009 – 7:30 p.m.

**Prince George's County
RMS Building - Room 308**

1400 McCormick Drive, Largo, Md.

Thursday, February 5, 2009 – 7:30 p.m.

Montgomery County

**Stella B. Werner Building - 3rd Floor Hearing Room
100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Md.**

The FY'10 Preliminary Budget document will be available upon request and posted on our website (www.wsscwater.com) by January 15, 2009. People who wish to speak at either of the hearings should contact the WSSC's Budget Group at (301) 206-8110 to be placed on the list of speakers in advance of the hearings. People who wish to submit a written statement for inclusion in the hearing record should send the statement to Ms. Sheila Cohen, Budget Group Leader, WSSC, 14501 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707. The public hearing record will remain open until February 17, 2009. **NOTE:** If either public hearing is rescheduled due to inclement weather conditions, a public hearing will be held as follows:

**February 11, 2009 – 3:00 p.m. – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission
RGH Building – Auditorium – Level "L" - 14501 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, Md**

Commissioner's

Corner

The WSSC recently honored 88 employees with 10 or more years of service. These workers have a total of nearly 1,600 work years. Four of the honorees have worked at WSSC for 35 or more years. This service is a testament to WSSC being a good place to work with competitive salaries and excellent benefits. I urge talented individuals to consider a career at WSSC. Like many businesses with a bounty of baby boomers set to retire, we will need talented, capable people ready to fill their shoes. The WSSC offers careers in administration, security, engineering, meter reading and other specialties. If you want a fulfilling career and are ready to serve customers who depend on clean drinking water and sanitary waste disposal, go to the WSSC website (www.wsscwater.com), click public information and then click "job opportunities" for the latest listing of job opportunities at WSSC. –Joyce Starks, Chair, WSSC

Invite WSSC to meet with your organization

The American Society of Civil Engineers estimates that \$1.6 trillion is needed over a five-year period to bring the nation's infrastructure to a good condition. Approximately 50% of the WSSC water distribution system will reach or exceed its useful life by 2025. Members of the WSSC senior leadership team are available to discuss our infrastructure challenges with your civic org. or homeowner's association. The presentations last about 20 minutes followed by a question and answer session. Find out the facts. Contact: John C. White, Public Affairs Manager, WSSC Communications/ Community Relations Department (301) 206-8100, or send an email to jwhite@wsscwater.com.