



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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Lockport Powerhouse tours highlight Old Canal Days

More than 350 residents from the city of Lockport and surrounding communities listened to presentations and toured the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's (MWRD's) historic Powerhouse during Old Canal Days on June 14.

As part of the opening ceremony, Boy Scout Troop 50 and Coast Guard Lieutenant Commander Stacy Miller presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance. MWRD Chairman of Finance Mariyana Spyropoulos presented a MWRD resolution to Lockport Mayor Stephen Streit in honor of Old Canal Days.

"The District was very pleased when Mayor Streit asked us to participate in Old Canal Days," said Commissioner Spyropoulos. "We recognize that the Powerhouse has a commanding presence in the community, so we wanted to open our doors to help provide a better understanding of its role in the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS)."

"On behalf of the city of Lockport, I would like to thank the Board of Commissioners for participating in Old Canal Days," said Mayor Streit. "Many residents have lived in Lockport their entire lives and always wondered what the Powerhouse does. This is a wonderful opportunity, and we hope to continue the tradition each year."

Tour guides led visitors in small groups along the backside, inside and front sections of the Powerhouse throughout the day, stopping for a 15 minute presentation. MWRD Director of Maintenance and Operations Manju Sharma and former Executive Director Richard Lanyon discussed the role of the Powerhouse and explained how it aids the Chicago Area Waterways in flood prevention while allowing for recreational and commercial navigation. The Powerhouse, which was completed in 1907 and is listed on the Illinois Register of Historic Places, also generates revenue and clean energy as one of only 12 hydroelectric plants operating in Illinois.

Tours of the Powerhouse are held monthly. Please contact the MWRD Office of Public Affairs at 312-751-6633 or email public.affairs@mwrdd.org to reserve a space.

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In the photo: Standing in the front of the Lockport Powerhouse on June 14 are: Back row (adults) (L-R) Lieutenant Commander Stacy Miller, Executive Office of Marine Safety Unit Chicago, U.S. Coast Guard, MWRD Chairman of Finance Mariyana T. Spyropoulos, Lockport Mayor Stephen Streit and Troop 50 Rainbow Council Scoutmaster Tracy Cluff. Scouts pictured (L-R) Nick Lindblad, Carson Richter, Tyler Cluff and Alex Kramer.



In the photo: MWRD Community Education Specialist Mary Carroll explains the function of the Lockport Powerhouse during a tour on June 14.

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrdd.org) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.