

City notes

Details offered about Lane Avenue work

Things are heating up on Lane Avenue this summer, so I wanted to share some high-lights with you so that you know what to expect.

Lane Avenue water line: Work on a water line replacement for the section of Lane Avenue between Northwest Boulevard and North Star Road has already begun. As a result, both lanes on the north side of the street are out of commission for the construction zone, with one lane in each direction maintained in the remaining two lanes.

The goal is to complete this project by late August.

Lane Avenue "Road Diet": As the water line project concludes, this section of Lane Avenue will be converted to three-lanes, with one lane of traffic in each direction, a central turn lane and parking on the north side.



TED STATON

The curb lane surrounding the mixed-use project will be part of the construction zone for several months.

Next year, plans are in place to resurface the road and permanently install the "road diet." With this configuration, the parking lane will be in effect for the majority of the day, but will convert back to a second west-bound lane during evening rush hour.

Mount Holyoke and Wellesley Drive water lines: This work begins in early fall

and will last approximately two months. At this time, the section of Wellesley adjacent to the mixed-use project will be widened. Shortly thereafter, some traffic calming components are pending for Wellesley.

Mixed-use project development agreement: The final pieces of the Lane Avenue mixed-use puzzle are now in place, as City Council approved a development agreement between the city and the project developers that spells out in detail the

responsibilities and commitments from the city and the developers, mapping out how this project will occur over an approximately 18-month time period.

Using tax increment financing (TIF), under this agreement, the city can fund certain public infrastructure improvements associated with the development, without taking away from other city programs. This includes \$3.4 million of developer infrastructure costs that cover a 50-year ground lease of the portion

of the property dedicated to surface public parking, as well as to support some demolition expenses and other on-site public infrastructure needs (street, curb, gutter, utilities). Additionally, the city will use some of the funds generated from the TIF to help cover the costs for Lane Avenue, Wellesley Drive and Mount Holyoke infrastructure improvements that include utilities, traffic calming and street lighting, which

CITY NOTES >> <NONE>

KEYS TO SUCCESS

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MATERIAL SCIENCE INTERNATIONAL

Company products aim for energy efficiency

By ANDREW MILLER
ThisWeek Contributing Writer

Material Science International has been helping keep people cool and green for more than 30 years.

Columbus-based MSI uses a machining process to create fine metal and ceramic particles, which can then be applied to surfaces such as glass and solar panels, to increase efficiency and durability of the surface.

"We got started back in 1981 doing aerospace work for Rockwell International and McDonnell Douglas," CEO Neil Crabbe said. "We were doing a lot of aerospace work back then that led to us working with thin film deposition products."

Executive Vice President Bill Bailey said the company produces a pure metal that can be ionized and applied to other materials such as glass to create characteristics not found in nature.

"So like architectural glass that you see that has various tints to it, you're actually looking through metal," Bailey said. "There is a great energy efficiency gained by the layers of materials and the purity is very critical. The oils from a fingerprint could ruin the product."

"We're very successful in maintaining an excellent relationship with our customers and our employees," he said. "We have very little turnover of either and we like to consider this one big family."

MSI supplies companies internationally; however,

opened two years ago. That property was purchased from Dow Chemicals in 2005.

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MSI operates a 25,000-square-foot Georgesville Road location, which opened in 1981, and a 50,000-square-foot location on Norton Road that

opened two years ago. That property was purchased from Dow Chemicals in 2005.

For more information about MSI, go to www.msitarget.com.



Material Science International employs a highly skilled workforce to create pure raw materials used in products such as architectural glass. MSI operates two facilities on Columbus' West Side.

For that reason, Crabbe said, it is crucial that his manufacturing workforce be highly skilled and properly trained.

"Our workforce is all ISO-trained and -certified machinists. When we hire new employees, we look for certain skill sets that can be built off of because we're specialized and most of the time, we will need to train them further," Crabbe said. "But we have very little turnover. My longest-term employee has been here almost 30 years now and he can do about anything."

The relationship among management, employees and customers is MSI's key to success, according to Bailey.

Crabbe said, most of its customers are domestic.

"Our customers keep our business running and one of our larger customers, PPG, we've done business with for years and they've given us significant recognition as well as awards due to our quality products," Crabbe said.

Economic issues affecting the nation as a whole had an impact on MSI as well, but Crabbe said investments in equipment and quality employees have paid off.

"We were up to about 40 employees until the recession hit and we dropped off some, but we're back up to about 32 employees now," Crabbe said. "Of course, we're able to put



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Keys to success

- Maintain excellent relationships with customers.
- Invest in quality employees and equipment.
- Hire a trained workforce and provide additional training, when needed.