



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
St. Louis District

Press Release

Release No. 19-07

Contact: Public Affairs, 314-331-8002/8068

Date: September 14, 2007

1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

River Navigator Hosts Listening Session in Clarksville, Mo., September 28

The Upper Mississippi River Navigator, as designated by the American Heritage Rivers Initiative, will be hosting a listening session for the public in Pike County with particular emphasis on the river communities of Clarksville and Louisiana. The meeting will be held Friday, September 28 from 1 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on the second floor of the Clarksville Visitor Center off of Highway 79.

Deanne Strauser, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District, is the current River Navigator for the Upper Mississippi River, assuming responsibilities earlier this year.

"I'm not a river navigator in the sense that I pilot a tow boat," she explained. "I am an ambassador of sorts for the Upper Mississippi River committed to aiding river communities in navigating the often difficult federal bureaucracy. There are a lot of exciting projects taking place in our river communities and there may be complementary federal programs that could aid in these initiatives."

Strauser, along with other Army Corps of Engineers employees, will be at the listening session. It will be an open forum so people can come and go as their schedules permit. Strauser will provide information on the River Navigator program, and Army Corps employees will be on hand to discuss current initiatives or answer questions about particular projects.

"We want folks to come share their ideas for their riverfronts," Strauser said. "This is an information gathering session for us and an opportunity for me to introduce myself as the River Navigator and start looking for ways the federal government can support local efforts to restore and protect America's rivers and revitalize river communities and waterfronts."

Who: Upper Mississippi River Navigator, Deanne Strauser

What: Public listening session for Pike County, particular interest on Clarksville and Louisiana

When: September 28, 1 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Where: Clarksville Visitor Center, Hwy 79

-END-

Editor's Note: For additional information about the River Navigator's roles and responsibilities and the purpose of this session please call Deanne Strauser at 314-331-8047.