

The Mainstream

A semiannual newsletter dedicated to enhancing water and wastewater services brought to you by
The Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority



From The Director

With the end of Summer 2002 and its record-breaking hot and dry weather, it is time to reflect on the success of the teamwork between YCUA and our customers in avoiding a possible water emergency situation.

On May 30th, in an attempt to ease summer burdens of high demands on our infrastructure as well as on the Detroit water system, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) instituted a Water Usage Restriction Ordinance. We complied with DWSD's request and instituted a voluntary odd-even outdoor water use restriction in effect until Labor Day 2002 for all of our service area.

Then, on July 16th, DWSD instituted an expanded system-wide mandatory outdoor water use restriction for all suburban water customers, with the additional restriction of a mandatory ban on all outdoor watering from 6-9 a.m. and 6-9 p.m. daily. In addition, our Board of Commissioners approved a recommendation to Ypsilanti City Council and the

Ypsilanti Township Board of Trustees to establish ordinances in both Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township permitting the enforcement of water restrictions imposed by YCUA and allowing for a fine schedule for violators. City and Township officials have taken those ordinances under advisement and it is YCUA's hope that those ordinances will be in place by next summer.

However, even without ordinances in place, YCUA is grateful for the level of compliance by its customers in the outdoor watering restrictions this summer. Your cooperation and patience were extremely crucial in maintaining the pressure required to supply water for fighting fires and in protecting our citizens from possible disruption of service. Thank you all for your efforts.

Wishing you all much happiness during the upcoming holiday season.

- YCUA Director

For more information, please visit our website at:
www.ycua.org

Homeowners Can Reduce Sewage Backups With Back-Flow Preventers

A sewer lead back-flow prevention/check valve can be installed into any home, old or new. The purpose of a check valve is to keep sewage from the street mains from backing up into the home.

On a new home, the check valve can be installed inside the house just before the sanitary sewer lead leaves the foundation of the home. This would allow the sewage from all connections inside the home to flow through the check valve,

which would only open with the flow leaving the home. If sewage were to backup from the outside of the home, the check valve would close due to the reversal of the flow and would not allow a backup into the home.

For newly constructed dwellings, homeowners can simply request that their contractor include a back-flow preventer into their home's construction plans. In existing homes, the check valve should be installed by a certified plumber.

Did You Know ...

Leaky faucets and running toilets can cause high water bills? Be sure to check and repair your plumbing regularly!

Sanitary Sewer Preventative Maintenance Program

In January 2001, YCUA modified its sanitary sewer preventative maintenance program to target sewers with a history of blockages. Problematic areas are categorized by potential for backup and are flushed at intervals ranging from every two months to annually. As a result, 230 different areas in our service system are flushed during the year. YCUA also routinely checks over 200 manholes each week in areas that may be prone to blockages. This program has greatly reduced sewer backups in the YCUA system.

YCUA's Summer 2002 Water Main Replacement and Improvement Projects

In an ongoing effort to enhance service to our customers and to provide preventative maintenance to our water distribution system, a number of water mains were replaced or repaired this past summer in cooperation with City of Ypsilanti and Charter Township of Ypsilanti road re-paving projects. Areas receiving water main improvements were South Depot Town, the Jarvis Area, Prospect Gardens, and the Northwest Area. New water mains were successfully installed on Congress Street, and Tyler Road. YCUA staff appreciated your patience while these projects were under construction and expects the upgrades will result in marked improvements to the water service in those areas.

YCUA Employees Join In Washtenaw United Way's Day of Caring

September 12, 2002 marked the Washtenaw United Way's 2002 Day of Caring. Each year, the Washtenaw United Way kicks off its fund drive period with this event, which calls for groups of individuals to volunteer themselves for one day in benefit to their communities. YCUA employees eagerly join in the Day of Caring activities each year and our hats are off to those employees whose efforts that day made a difference.

YCUA employees giving of themselves this year for the Day of Caring event included Guy Huddleston, Karen Lauderman, Tim Stachlewitz, Alan Troy, and Margaret Washington. This group of dedicated volunteers met with Washtenaw United Way representatives on the morning of September 12 at EMU's Convocation Center to receive their assignment. They then spent the day at the Packard Community Clinic in Ann Arbor. Here, they worked tirelessly, painting, cleaning the walls and windows, weeding the garden area, power washing the building and sidewalks, planting, and filing.

In addition to YCUA staff's participation in the Day of Caring, employees donate funds annually to the United Way Campaign Fund Drive. This year's YCUA Washtenaw County United Way Campaign Committee consists of Lynne Meyers, Tim Stachlewitz, Perry Thomas, and Margaret Washington.



YCUA wishes to remind all local residents that they may donate or volunteer their time to the Washtenaw United Way at any time by calling (734) 971-8200 or by visiting their website at www.wuway.org.



YCUA's United Way 2002 Day Of Caring Volunteer Team (left to right): Margaret Washington, Alan Troy, Guy Huddleston, Tim Stachlewitz, Perry Thomas (Coordinator), and Karen Lauderman.

YCUA Employees Slated to Participate in Annual Clothing and Toy Drive

The holiday season is a time for giving and YCUA's members of AFSCME Local 3451 exemplify that spirit with their participation in the annual Holiday Gathering clothing and toy drive.

In cooperation with Washtenaw County AFSCME Locals 2733, 3451, 369, and 1583, YCUA employees ask that you join us in our efforts to provide winter clothing and toys for the needy in our area this holiday season. Collection boxes will be set up in public and work areas at the YCUA offices at 2777 State Road in Ypsilanti Township and the Ypsilanti and Pittsfield Township Civic Centers throughout the month of December. Coats, hats, socks, and gloves are the types of items that are greatly needed, as well as new, unopened, and unwrapped toys for needy children.

It's Time To Winterize!

The time to prepare your home for winter is before the freezing temperatures and snow arrive. Follow these tips to help prevent frozen pipes in your home:

1. Disconnect outdoor hoses.
2. Insulate pipes in unheated areas or seal off unheated areas.
3. Find your water meter shutoff so if a break does occur, you can turn off your water service quickly.
4. If you have an in-ground sprinkler system, contact your dealer about scheduling an appointment to have your system thoroughly winterized.



Did You Know ...

YCUA participates in several certification programs to educate its employees. Our Water Distribution department, Meter Shop, and Service Center have 20 employees that are certified through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Environmental Assistance Division.

Our Maintenance Department has 20 employees certified through the California Water Environment Association Technical Certification Program, which is also recognized by the Michigan Water Environment Association and our Laboratory and Wastewater Departments have 26 employees certified through Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.