



YCUA Opens Doors

May 2 - 8, 1999, is
National Water

Quality Awareness Week. To kick-off the week, YCUA will be hosting an open house and tours of its facilities on Saturday May 1. Our Service Center and Water Distribution Office at 2780 Clark Road will be open from 10:00 a.m. to noon, and our Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Administrative Offices located at 2777 State Road near Willow Run Airport and Wiard Road will be open from noon to 2:00 p.m. YCUA's biosolids composting pilot plant, the first in the State of Michigan, which opened in mid-March, will be in operation for your inspection as well. The composting facility is located at the WWTP.

We hope you plan on attending, and encourage you to bring your children, who will especially enjoy seeing the large equipment and vehicles up-close. This really is a unique opportunity to learn how YCUA distributes drinking water, and collects and treats wastewater for you and your community.

You will find that this issue of The Main Stream primarily focuses on water quality efforts at YCUA. Our laboratory is the highlighted department, as they work every day of the year to ensure that only clean water is returned to the environment. You will also learn how YCUA works with industry and other partners to protect our precious water resources. In closing, don't forget to visit our new web site, www.ycua.org, which was developed to improve our level of customer service.

Sincerely,

Director

Stormwater vs. Wastewater

Many people are curious about the difference between stormwater and wastewater. Here are some definitions:

Stormwater consists of rain or property drainage (via irrigation). Stormwater can be funneled into ditches, storm sewers and rivers. In our area, stormwater eventually drains into the Huron River, or the Raisin River, without receiving any treatment.

Wastewater is the water disposed of in sinks, toilets, and floor drains by households and businesses. State and Federal regulations require that wastewater receive proper treatment before being released into the environment. Most wastewater in the YCUA service area is collected by sanitary sewers for treatment at the WWTP.

Treated wastewater is called effluent. YCUA discharges its effluent into the Lower Rouge River, where it merges with stormwater and groundwater sources to become river water. See more about this in the article on the YCUA wastewater laboratory.

Effluent Outfall at the Lower Rouge River



Did you know . . .

In accordance with the Federal Clean Water Act, YCUA will be sending each customer a report on the quality of their drinking water. The first annual report is due by October 19, 1999, and by July 1 in subsequent years.

Wastewater Lab and Industrial Pollution Monitoring



The YCUA Wastewater Laboratory is located at the Administration and Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) grounds at 2777 State Road. The lab operates eight hours per day, 365 days of the year. Automated sampling equipment collects samples at six-minute intervals from several treatment plant process points. These samples are then analyzed to evaluate treatment plant removal efficiencies. The WWTP effluent is monitored to ensure compliance with all State and Federal requirements before discharge to the receiving stream, the Lower Rouge River. Tests for suspended solids, phosphorus, ammonia nitrogen, fecal coliform, chlorine, oxygen, pH, and metal concentrations are routinely analyzed.

Another facet of water quality testing is the Industrial Pretreatment Program (IPP). The IPP ensures that the industrial users of the sanitary sewer system are in compliance with local sewer ordinance limitations. These limits are established to protect health and safety, prevent interference with the biological breakdown of the sewage, and ensure pollutant concentrations are not exceeded. With the IPP, YCUA can monitor that harmful substances do not pass through the wastewater treatment plant into the environment. Specially trained industrial surveillance staff regularly monitor significant industries, and portable sampling units are placed at selected points to confirm that those sources do not exceed discharge limits.

Automated Sampling Equipment



Community Partners for *Clean Streams*

Recognizing the importance of clean water, YCUA and Ypsilanti Township have joined the Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner's Office and other Ypsilanti-area businesses and institutions by participating in the Community Partner for Clean Streams program. Through this program, businesses help protect the Huron River, Rouge River, and local streams. The program is made up of eight sections: housekeeping practices, maintaining stormwater controls, equipment and vehicles, buildings and pavements, landscapes, site design and construction, managing wastes, and education.

Businesses or residents who are interested in this program or a **"Citizen's Guide to Restore and Protect Waterways"** may pick up the information at or call the following locations:

- YCUA's Administration Offices
2777 State Road - 734.544.7127
- Charter Township of Ypsilanti
7200 Huron River Drive - 734.481.0617

www.ycua.org

YCUA's web site, launched on March 15th, features up-to-date information on utility rates, frequently asked questions, services, departmental reports, Board meeting agendas and minutes, employment, maps, newsletters, announcements, and links to related sites. We encourage you to visit our site!

Y2K Compliance

YCUA has completed a Y2K audit and evaluation and is also working with its equipment vendors to make sure their systems are Y2K compliant. To date, 74% of our computers have passed the Y2K test and are deemed compliant. The remaining computers will be repaired or replaced before the end of 1999. YCUA customers can be confident that their water and sewer services will continue without interruption during the millennium crossover.