



YCUA



Scenic Water and
Wastewater Tours

Visitors Welcome at YCUA!

On May 2nd, as part of Water Quality Awareness Week, YCUA hosted an open house for the public to visit our Water Distribution/Service facility and our

Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). We had approximately 30 residents tour each facility and see our staff's equipment and the treatment processes at work. Distributing water, maintaining mains, and collecting and treating wastewater is interesting work, and we were happy to share it with our customers. Tours for any interested parties can be arranged during working hours by calling our office at 734.484.4600. For specific information on water distribution, ask for Wayne Jahnke; for the service center, ask for Scott Martin; and for the WWTP, ask for Perry Thomas.

In this, our second issue of The Main Stream, we begin a series of articles on the activities of various departments within YCUA. The Maintenance Department is featured this quarter. Also, on August 15, 1998, as part of the Heritage Festival festivities, our historic stone water tower on Cross Street will be open to the public. This water tower was built in 1890 and is still in use today. Why not make plans to stop by August 15th; the view of the city from the catwalk is magnificent. I hope you enjoy learning what this department does to keep our community's water and wastewater treatment operations functioning efficiently and safely.

Larry R. Thomas
Director

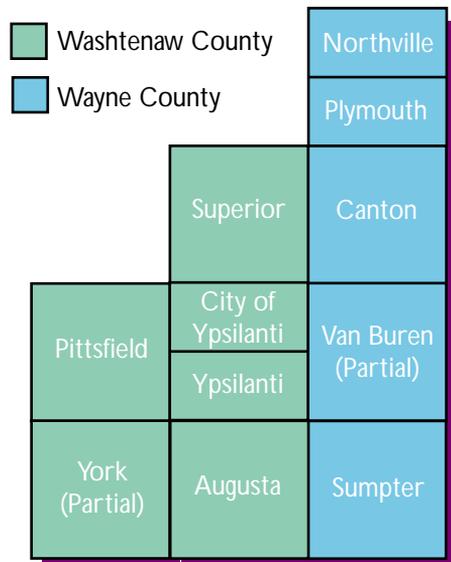
IMPROVING Your Quality of Life



As part of YCUA's Capital Improvement Program, some neighborhoods within our service area will experience temporary inconveniences this year due to water main replacement projects.

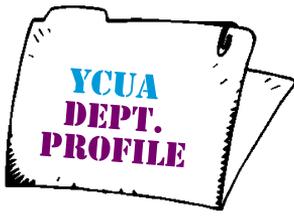
In conjunction with the Forest Avenue road reconstruction between Twin Towers and Ford Boulevard, YCUA will be replacing the existing water main in the road work area. Additionally, we have a Drinking Water Revolving Fund low-interest loan application with the State to replace old water mains in two areas of Ypsilanti Township bounded by Ecorse/ Hawthorne/Glenwood/Harris, and the area between Forest/Cross/Harris/ Campbell, and Harris/Michigan Avenue/ Lamay/Holmes. We are hopeful this work will begin in the fall. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause; however, we hope the improvement to water services in the affected areas will make it worthwhile!

YCUA Service Area by Township



Did you know . . .

YCUA maintains 250 miles of water main and 250 miles of sewer in the City and Township of Ypsilanti?



The Maintenance Department

includes nine Maintenance Mechanics, nine Maintenance Helpers, five Groundskeepers, two Vehicle Mechanics, one Stock Room Clerk, one Admin-

istrative Assistant, two Supervisors, and one Superintendent.

Using two-person crews, they are called upon to perform as plumbers, electricians, millwrights, carpenters, masons, or welders as needed to maintain 46 sewage lift stations, 13 water pump stations, 12 meter vaults, plus the WWTP and all other YCUA buildings. These stations serve ten communities covering an area extending from Zeeb Road in Scio Township to I-275 in Canton Township. Besides routine inspections of all these facilities, they respond to emergency calls regardless of the time, day or night, to prevent or at least minimize interruptions in service.



The talents of the Maintenance Department are utilized as much as possible to save on the cost of outside contractors by performing needed upgrades and installations of new equipment and systems. So when you see them driving around the community, remember the important role they play in providing you with uninterrupted quality service!

Lawn Watering Strategies



Watering bans are sometime imposed by YCUA during periods of high demand and infrastructure failures.

However, there are strategies homeowners can use to eliminate the need for excessive lawn watering. These will actually save you time and money, allowing you to focus on more pleasant activities!

1. Choose the right seed mix for your Michigan lawn; it should contain Kentucky bluegrass, fescues, and perennial rye-grass.
2. Make your lawn as small as possible by using native shrubs, grasses, and flowers to landscape most areas. Native plants require less watering.
3. Mow high! Keep your grass **at least three inches high**. This promotes healthier roots that better tolerate hot and dry conditions.
4. Only water a total of one inch per week, over several days rather than one long watering. Use an empty can to help you determine when to stop watering.
5. Use grass clippings to feed your lawn, not commercial fertilizers that contain harsh ingredients, like phosphorus. It will save you money and help protect our natural water resources.

YCUA Employee Achievements

YCUA would like to recognize the following employees who have retired since January 1998: **Bert Riley**, Service System Supervisor - 26 years; **Luella Thompson**, Administrative Assistant - 12 years; **Dennis Parker**, Wastewater Shift Supervisor - 35 years; and **John Linville**, Superintendent of Maintenance - 27 years. Their contributions to YCUA will always be valued and appreciated. We wish them all good health and happy retirements!



Further, the employees at YCUA helped give the pediatric patients at St. Joseph Hospital a bit of cheer during Easter. They distributed lots of coloring books and crayons for the children to use during their hospital stay.

These tips were provided through a cooperative education effort led by the Huron River Watershed Council. Please direct specific questions to them at 734.769.5123



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Questions? • Comments? • Concerns? • Kudos?
ALL WELCOME! Call YCUA at 734•484•4600

your water and wastewater service providers