

The Main Stream

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a quarterly newsletter dedicated to enhancing water and wastewater services brought to you by the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority

Changing to Better Serve You

Two major changes are taking place to better serve our customers. You may have already noticed that "The Main Stream" has been resized and enhanced. This change is in anticipation of our new billing format that is expected to take place by the end of the year. Instead of a postcard bill, you will receive a letter-sized bill in an envelope. This will allow us to mail the bill and newsletter together, and provide you with more detailed billing information. We also proceeded with this change because many customers indicated that they would prefer the privacy of a sealed bill. Look for additional information on the new billing format in our Fall newsletter.

The second change for the better is YCUA's new web site; www.ycua.org offers information of interest to our customers, including emergency announcements. In addition, many YCUA staff now have e-mail addresses, which are listed on our web site for your convenience in contacting them with specific questions. We hope this improves overall communication with our customers. If you are on-line, I urge you to take advantage of our web site and e-mail capabilities. Feel free to e-mail me at director@provide.net with your questions or concerns.



Larry R. Thomas, Director

Public Participant Sought!

YCUA is looking for a customer to serve a one-year term on its Public Relations (PR) committee. The PR committee believes it will improve its effectiveness by including a customer's perspective in its initiatives. If you are interested in participating, please forward a letter of interest to Larry Thomas at director@provide.net or to 2777 State Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48198. A participant will be randomly selected.

Did you know . . .

THE YCUA PILOT COMPOSTING FACILITY OPENED IN MID-JUNE. The first in the State, it is being tested for a one-year trial period to determine the feasibility of composting sewage sludge into useful landscaping material. If successful, waste could be returned safely to the environment for reuse and costly landfilling will be eliminated.

1998 Water Quality Report

All customers of community drinking water supplies in the United States can expect to receive a water quality report from their providers by October 19, 1999. The report will include such information as where your water comes from, what contaminants were detected in your water, the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) allowed by law, mandatory health effects language, and whom to contact for more information at both local and federal levels. This annual report will be due to customers by July 1 in subsequent years. YCUA is currently preparing its report, and plans to distribute it to all customers through the mail before the October deadline. We are pleased to inform you in advance that your drinking water met all Federal and State requirements throughout 1998.



Mitigation Project Begins

In June, YCUA launched its Odor Mitigation Program to reduce odors near the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) at State Road and McGregor. To control the odors that

arise when sewage first enters the WWTP, YCUA is building a two-stage scrubbing system. A scrubber treats odorous air with an oxidant such as bleach (sodium hypochlorite) to reduce the odors. The first stage will reduce hydrogen sulfide (a major odor source) in the air by 90% and the second stage is intended to remove the remaining odors using the best treatment technology available. YCUA continually seeks ways to improve its operations and looks forward to greatly reducing the odors associated with the WWTP.



Water Distribution Department



Until 1994, YCUA had its own well supply and water treatment facilities. It was then decided that purchasing water from Detroit would be more cost-effective than making necessary improvements to the existing undersized and aging facilities.

From past to present, the Water Distribution Department has always ensured a reliable supply of water to your home. Located at the YCUA Service Center on Clark Road, staff in the Water Distribution Department remotely monitor and control water delivered to Ypsilanti Township, the City of Ypsilanti, Augusta Township, Pittsfield Township and Superior Township. In order to provide water supply and adequate pressure, our water distribution operators monitor and control pumps, filling tanks and other facilities to ensure efficient water service for our customers.



An Operator Monitors the Water Distribution System

Operators must monitor the system around the clock to deliver the 7 billion gallons of water pumped through the system annually. Staff includes five operators and one superintendent.

Questions about your drinking water may be directed to the Superintendent, Wayne Jahnke, at ypsih20@aol.com or at 734.484.4600.

Heritage Festival Returns

The Ypsilanti Heritage Festival is celebrated August 20-22 with historical tours, arts and crafts, music, a parade, dancing, games, and lots of food. Don't forget to visit the historic stone water tower during the Festival. Located on Cross Street, it will be open for public tours on Saturday the 21st from 1-4 p.m.

Current Construction Projects

Project:	Start Date:	End Date:
Oaklawn & Willow Subs Water Main Replacements	9/21/98	7/31/99
Odor Mitigation Project Headworks Odor Control	5/6/99	3/1/00
Prospect Street Water Main Replacement	6/1/99	10/1/99
Textile to Huron River Sanitary Sewer Replacement	8/1/99	11/1/99

Summer Watering Suggestions

Just how often do you need to water your lawn and garden? Surprisingly, you do not have to follow a fixed schedule or wait until your lawn turns brown. Water only when the grass or plants show signs of needing it. During hot, sunny spells, you may need to water daily. During cool, cloudy, or rainy periods, you do not have to water as often.

In addition, the time of day you water can greatly influence its effectiveness. Heat and wind will rob your lawn of water before it can be used. To avoid this excess evaporation, it is best to water during the coolest part of the day, usually early morning. Also bear in mind that water applied quickly or heavily tends to run off the surface, whereas a light, slow shower will sink into the turf. Thorough watering allows the lawn to grow deeper roots, which do not require as much water and strengthen the lawn's ability to resist drought, disease and other stresses. To further conserve water, avoid sprinkling onto pavement.

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? CONCERNS? KUDOS?

ALL WELCOME! - Contact YCUA at
734.484.4600 or www.ycua.org