

The Mainstream

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



Your water and wastewater service providers

From The Director

On September 11, 2003, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality approved the YCUA application to construct a fluidized bed incinerator to dispose of the sewage sludge generated at our wastewater treatment plant.

The fluidized bed incinerator will replace a multiple hearth incinerator that has been in use for the last twenty years. Fluidized bed incineration, our selected method of sewage sludge disposal, was submitted to MDEQ and, after lengthy technical review by their staff as well as a public comment period and a public meeting, MDEQ approved our application.

Aside from burning sludge more efficiently and, therefore, cleaner, this replacement incinerator will have additional emissions controls for the air

A venturi scrubber, impingent scrubber, electrostatic precipitator, and an activated carbon filter will clean the gases before being released. Our activated carbon filter will be a first for a sewage sludge incinerator in the United States.

Our current incinerator is scheduled to discontinue operation in January of 2004. It will be dismantled and the new incinerator built in its place.

The fluidized bed incinerator is scheduled for start up in late 2005.

The sludge generated in 2004–2005 will be landfilled.

- YCUA Director



YCUA's New Assistant Director

T. Michael Jessee, formerly Superintendent of Maintenance for YCUA, has recently been promoted to Assistant Director of the Authority.

Mike began working for YCUA in 1981 in the position of laborer. Over the next 22 years, he worked as a water plant operator, maintenance helper, mechanic, and maintenance supervisor. In 1998, he was promoted to the Superintendent level and led the maintenance department for five years.

In an effort to better meet the current and future needs of the Authority, its employees, and its customers, the YCUA Board of Com-

missioners approved organizational restructuring, which added the position of Assistant Director.

"Mike's strong leadership and management skills, along with his knowledge of YCUA operations, were exactly what I was looking for in an Assistant Director," said Larry R. Thomas, YCUA Director. "Mike's abilities will carry the Authority to the next level."

As Assistant Director, Mike Jessee is responsible for managing and coordinating daily operations of the many departments in the Authority. Additionally, he is the lead liaison during the \$110 million wastewater treatment plant expansion/improvements project currently underway.

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

New Ultraviolet Disinfection System Now Online

Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority started using ultraviolet light for disinfection of the effluent water on May 9, 2003. Fecal Coliform analysis of the effluent sample produced very good results.

The Ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system transfers electromagnetic energy from a light bulb to an organism's genetic material. UV radiation penetrates the cell wall of the organism and destroys the cell's ability to reproduce, thus preventing its ability to cause diseases. UV disinfection is effective in inactivating most viruses, spores, cysts, and bacteria.

Previously, YCUA used chlorine to disinfect the effluent before it was pumped to the Lower Rouge River in Canton Township. The excess chlorine in the effluent was removed by adding sulfur dioxide. Both of these gases are highly toxic and are lethal to living organisms, including humans and animals. Transportation and handling of these gases was a great safety concern for YCUA.

UV disinfection eliminated the need to handle, transport, and store these extremely toxic chemicals and removed the residual elements from the surface water where it discharges.

2003 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 between June and October of 2003 in cooperation with City of Ypsilanti and Charter Township of Ypsilanti road re-paving projects. Areas receiving water main improvements were the Ainsworth, College Heights, Normal Park and Summit Subdivisions as well as South Harris Road between Share and Grove.

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 9, 2003 marked the Washtenaw United Way's 2003 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 for one day to benefit 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.

The following YCUA Employees participated in this year's Washtenaw County United Way Day of Caring: Tom Adkins, Dana Epps, Guy Huddlestone, Karen Lauderman, and Tim Stachlewitz. The YCUA Employees worked at an Ypsilanti Housing Commission Facility on Towner Street. The Ypsilanti Housing Commission Facility is affordable housing for low income residents. The YCUA Employees painted the entire exterior of two buildings. Each building contains several apartments. The employees did a great job in improving the appearance of the exterior of the buildings that they painted.

In addition to YCUA staff's participation in the Day of Caring, employees donate funds annually to the United Way Campaign Fund Drive. 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.

Did You Know ...

... That 20,000 cubic yards of concrete have been used to date in the YCUA wastewater treatment plant expansion/improvements construction project?

Wastewater Plant Expansion Project on Schedule

Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority's Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion is moving according to schedule. The new grit chamber, primary clarifier, aeration basins, final clarifiers, tertiary filter building, and primary sludge storage tanks are being constructed.

The new boilers are operating in the solids building. The new truck loading facility is scheduled to be operational by January 2004. Plans to start operating the new truck loading area and start working on the new incinerator in January will be met at this pace.

Tetra Tech MPS and Christman Construction Company are working diligently and well with YCUA personnel to move forward with the construction without obstructing the daily operation of the plant or service to our customers.



Expansion of an existing wastewater treatment plant, whether small or large (the latter being the case at YCUA) is no easy task. Despite the enormous undertaking of the \$110 million construction project, the general contractor, The Christman Company, is both on schedule and on budget at the 25 percent completion point.

Some of the most unpredictable circumstances encountered on a large project deal with the underground excavation work, which is about 90% completed. No big surprises were "unearthed" during the excavation for the tanks required to treat the additional 17 million gallons per day of future flow from WTUA. As such, no substantial extra costs have been necessary.

The contractor is working diligently to get the new sludge cake loading system constructed by early 2004. We are confident in their ability to meet the scheduled completion date of mid-2006 for the entire project.

You Drink & Drive. You Lose. —YCUA Joins The National Crackdown

You Drink & Drive. You Lose. is a national enforcement and education campaign to warn motorists about the dangers of drinking and driving. In 2000, Michigan experienced 515 alcohol/drug related traffic fatalities. YCUA, in partnership with the Drive Michigan Safely Task Force (DMSTF) will support the **You Drink & Drive. You Lose.** campaign in efforts to decrease the number of alcohol/drug related traffic fatalities experienced in Michigan during the Christmas/New Year's holiday period.

The DMSTF is a collaborative endeavor between Michigan State Police, sheriffs departments and local police departments in 18 counties to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities in traffic crashes due to impaired drivers and unbuckled motorists through periodic stepped-up traffic enforcement. High visibility law enforcement and publicity of these efforts are vital components to the success of decreasing the number of lives lost due to drunk driving. Please assist us in making the enforcement mobilizations a success in Michigan. The end result will mean lives saved and injuries prevented in your community and a safer holiday season for us all.



If you have any questions regarding the **You Drink & Drive. You Lose.** campaign, you may contact Jason Hamblen, Impaired Driving Program Coordinator, at 517.333.5321 or hamblenj@michigan.gov.

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 and make sure hose bibs are not dripping.
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.