

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

It's that time of year again when our contractors will be doing water main replacement projects in the City of Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township. Summer is construction season in Michigan. Areas in which we will be working are discussed later in this newsletter. Projects such as these do cause temporary inconveniences for residents and visitors, but the long-term benefits of uninterrupted water supply at increased pressures make them worthwhile. Please excuse any inconvenience these activities may cause.

We have recently agreed to provide water and wastewater treatment services for an area in northern York Township. Toyota is preparing to construct a technical center in that area, which will support the local economy and provide many jobs for the area. YCUA is pleased to be able to provide these services.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Larry R. Brown".

- YCUA Director



YCUA Bill Payment Options

YCUA accepts payments by mail. Please make checks or money orders payable to YCUA and send to: 2777 State Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198-9112. *Please allow 5-7 days for your payment to be received and processed.*

Cash, checks, and money orders are accepted at our offices on State Road during normal business hours. *In order to help serve you more efficiently, please bring your bill when paying in person.*

Automatic payments are accepted. Please call 734.544.7ACH for information and to request an enrollment form; or, download a form from the YCUA website:

Credit and debit card payments are also accepted. Visit our website at www.ycua.org or call 866.295.0088. Please note there is a convenience fee (currently \$5.55) associated with this form of payment.

In addition to the above options, your own personal bank may offer electronic bill payment services.

YCUA Wastewater Treatment Plant Project Nearing Completion

After three years, YCUA is finally approaching the point where a majority of the new systems in the expanded wastewater treatment plant will be operational, including the replacement odor control systems. The new odor control systems are operational but in need of further refinement. Please excuse the errant odors that occasionally escape the wastewater treatment plant. YCUA's replacement incinerator started its trial operation for startup and testing activities and is ongoing.

The plant's air ionization equipment has been installed and is in operation. However, there is no question that odors continue to be a problem. This is due largely to construction that is ongoing and, as a result, primary sludge and waste-activated sludge are collected and stored together, sometimes for extended periods of time. This results in septic conditions and odor generation in excess of that anticipated during the design process for the plant's air ionization system.

Temporarily, YCUA has begun to utilize chemical addition to the sludge prior to dewatering to oxidize the odor causing constituents present in the sludge. The completion of the construction will allow us additional options in eliminating off site odors.

YCUA is working to solve the problem, to eliminate objectionable odors in the community as well as to assure the health and safety of the Authority's workers. Despite some start-up challenges, YCUA staff and consulting engineers remain confident that all new systems will be up and running in relatively short time.

YCUA Hosts 2006 AWWA Tapping Contest

YCUA hosted the 2006 AWWA Tapping contest on March 29, 2006. John Hunter from East Jordan Iron Works, also the Chairman of Michigan AWWA Tapping Committee, conducted the contest. Each four-member team was timed on its speed in completing a water tap on a fully pressurized water main. Participants included two teams from YCUA, the City of Lansing (former Michigan tapping champions as well as national tapping placers), and the City of Troy (former Michigan and national placers). Representatives from other utilities and water work suppliers judged the event. First place honor went to the City of Troy with a time of 1:18 and the City of Lansing same in second with a time of 1:19 YCUA's A and B teams rounded out third and fourth places with time 3:01 and 5:00 respectively. Those who participated were issued .03 continuing education credits. An informational tapping class was also held after the contest.

Tim Stachlewitz Named MWEA Maintenance Professional of the Year

Congratulations to YCUA staff member Tim Stachlewitz on receiving the Michigan Water Environment Association Maintenance Professional of the Year award.

This award is a great accomplishment. Tim possesses excellent mechanical skills and it is wonderful that he is recognized for his talents by organizations outside of the Authority. Great job!

Bridge Road Water Treatment Plant Demolition Starting Soon

YCUA is preparing to demolish the water treatment plant located on Bridge Road. Authority staff and consulting engineers from Stantec met to discuss specific goals required to prepare bidding documentation for the project. Stantec will review the Geo Trans site assessment and visit the site for possible additional soil samples in order to identify regulated waste. An inventory list of regulated waste will then be prepared. YCUA has provided Stantec with all known chemicals used on the site, information concerning the storage of fuels and the location of the septic tank.

FutureNet Group (FNG), subconsultant to Stantec, will evaluate all identified regulated waste and prepare appropriate procedures to ensure that the bidding documentation addresses all health and safety issues associated with the project in order to assure the protection of the health and safety of all parties involved. Air monitoring will be used, if necessary, to insure that any found contaminants are not released during the demolition.

Summer Water Main Replacement and Improvement

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 will be replaced or repaired between June and October of 2006 in cooperation with the Charter Township of Ypsilanti road re-paving projects.

Areas receiving water main improvements will be Holmes Road between Prospect and Rue Deauville, North River Street from Forest Avenue North to the city limit, Forest Avenue for Prospect east to the city limit and about 2000 feet of main in Textile Road in the area of Tuttle Hill Road.

Also this summer we are planning two neighborhood main replacement projects. The neighborhood bounded by Hewitt, Congress and Valley Drive and the neighborhood bounded by Emerick, Ecorse, Harris and I-94 will have all water mains replaced as well as some sewer improvements.

YCUA staff appreciates your patience while these projects are under construction and expects the upgrades will result in marked improvements to the water service in those areas.

Did You Know ...

Outdoor watering restrictions and bans are sometimes imposed by YCUA during periods of high demand, particularly in the hot, dry months of summer. However, there are ways that homeowners can help minimize the need for watering restrictions while maintaining a beautiful lawn and garden. These ideas can also help to save you time and money!

- ◆ Choose the right seed mix for your Michigan lawn. It should contain Kentucky bluegrass, fescues, and perennial rye grass.
- ◆ Make your grassy lawn as small as possible by landscaping with native shrubs, plants, and flowers that require less watering.
- ◆ Keep your grass at least three inches high. This promotes healthier roots that better tolerate hot and dry conditions.
- ◆ Don't water according to a strict schedule; water only when the grass or plants show signs of needing it. During cool, cloudy, or rainy periods, you do not have to water as often.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Water applied quickly and heavily tends to run off the surface whereas a light, slow shower will sink into the turf and maximize the benefits of your sprinkler.
- ◆ To further conserve water, avoid sprinkling onto pavement.

Be sure to check our website at www.ycu.org often during the summer months for up-to-the-minute outdoor watering restriction information.

YCUA Board Member Ray Scott Receives NBA Humanitarian Award

On April 29, 2006, YCUA Board member Ray Scott will be awarded the Wilt Chamberlain Humanitarian Award, which is presented annually to an NBA player, past or present, who has gone beyond the call of duty in serving the needs of vulnerable children and struggling families. Ray played in the NBA for 10 seasons, scoring over 11,000 points, and coached the Detroit Pistons for several years following his retirement from the court. After the 1973-1974 season, the NBA honored Ray as "Coach of the Year" for leading the Pistons to a 52-win season.



Today, Ray serves as the Director of Development for Lutheran Child and Family Services of Michigan, focusing his energies on helping those who are facing challenges in their lives. Congratulations, Ray!

You Can Help Prevent Water Pollution

During your spring cleanup, remember to keep chemicals, pet wastes, and debris out of the storm drains — these outlets flow into surface waterways. Don't pour your unwanted chemicals on the ground or down sinks. Instead, take them to a hazardous waste collection center. For information on how to properly dispose of these items, contact the Household Hazardous Waste Hotline at 734.971.7356.