



From The Director

As we reported in the Fall / Winter 2011 edition of *The Mainstream*, YCUA has been researching various new odor control technologies with the goal of eliminating odors beyond the wastewater treatment plant fence line and a reduction in odor concerns from customers.

YCUA is pleased to announce that it recently awarded a contract for the odor control for the solids processing areas of the plant. Midwest Power Systems is on site constructing the 1.6 million dollar project.

The technology being utilized is Odor Control by Aeration Basin Biofilter. The foul air from the various solids processing areas is collected using a series of ductwork that is

connected to the suction side of a blower and then the foul air is blown into the aeration basins. The microorganism that are in aeration basins consume the odorous compounds and, thereby, the air that is subsequently released is odorless. Construction completion is expected in the fall of this year.

YCUA customers are encouraged to continue to call with any concerns regarding odor once the new system is in place. YCUA also offers tours of the wastewater treatment plant to interested groups. Please call 734-484-4600 ext. 207 for more information.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Larry R. Thomas'.

-Larry R. Thomas, Director

YCUA's Valve Turning Exercise Program

YCUA is currently conducting a conventional valve turning exercise program to maintain the quality and longevity of all water system valves. Being able to operate these valves at a moment's notice is extremely important. In an emergency, sections of a distribution system may need to be shut down without delay.

Conventional water system valve turning consists of closing then opening each valve in a specific neighborhood. During this process you might experience discolored water and sediment for a short period of time.

After valve exercising has been completed in your neighborhood, it may be necessary to purge your internal plumbing. Running several cold taps at full force for a short period will usually flush out any discolored water in the home. If water is not clear, wait one-half hour and repeat the process again. Running water through an outdoor garden hose is also an effective way to flush out your service. It is also a good idea to remove and clean out the screens on faucet aerators, which may have gathered particles during the valve exercising process.

If you experience continued abnormally low pressure and / or low flow volume throughout your house, please call the number listed below. Valve exercising will normally take place from the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. For more information go to: www.ycua.org or call 734-484-4600 ext. 307.

New Study Sheds Light on Health Concerns Regarding Garden Hoses

In a study published earlier this year, an Ann Arbor-based research lab tested water that had left been in a garden hose in direct sunlight for 72 hours. The results included lead levels 18 times higher than the federal drinking water standard and levels approximately 20 times higher than the standard established by the National Safety Foundation for Bisphenol A or BPA, a chemical currently being studied for its potential health risks in humans, especially children.

"The two critical factors are time and temperature," said Jeff Gearhart, research director for The Ecology Center. Gearhart noted that chemical leaching can begin as quickly as within an hour after standing water has remained in a hose left in a warm environment.

Garden hoses, which are not regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Act, often contain lead because it prevents them from breaking down under sun exposure.

Gearhart said the purpose of this study was to see if products currently available to consumers have improved after previous tests in 2003 and 2007 showed a potential for chemicals to leach into garden hose water. "The vinyl products on the market still have a lot of chemical hazards present in the material," he said.

90 typical consumer-grade hoses were included in the test, which were purchased from a variety of Ann Arbor-area retailers. The hoses were filled with municipal tap water with the ends clamped to prevent the water from contacting the brass fittings. The garden hose brands that scored the worst in the study include Swan, Tractor Supply Co., WaterWorks, NeverKink, Melnor, Meijer, Element, FLEXON, Craftsman, Companion, Aqua Plumb, Apex and ACE.

In addition to the hoses, the study also included 53 brands of garden gloves, 13 kneeling pads, and 23 other types of gardening tools. Approximately one-third of these products contained lead levels that exceed the standard established by the Consumer Product Safety Commission and about 70% contained enough hazardous chemicals to be considered a "high concern".

The Ecology Center recommends that consumers choose rubber or polyurethane garden hoses (rather than PVC) that are labeled as lead-free. The center also advises that consumers should avoid any hoses that contain a California Prop 65 warning label, which indicates that the product may contain chemicals that can cause cancer or birth defects. The Ecology Center further suggests that gardeners flush their hoses for several minutes before watering any plants being grown as food products.

Source: AnnArbor.com

YCUA Welcomes New Human Resources Director

Kimberly Robinson joined YCUA on June 5, 2012, assuming the position of human resources director. Ms. Robinson is responsible for supervising the overall administration of the Authority's personnel programs including recruitment, testing, evaluation, safety, worker's compensation, classification and salary administration, insurances, and equal opportunity.



Ms. Robinson comes to the Authority with over ten years of human resources experience. Her most recent position was in an entrepreneurial capacity with People Talent Group, LLC, a start-up recruiting and HR consulting firm. Prior to that, she served in a number of HR-related capacities for Automotive Components Holdings / Visteon / Ford Motor Company.

Ms. Robinson holds both a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Science degree from Syracuse University and a bachelor's degree from Bentley University.

She resides in Belleville, Michigan and is married with one son, one daughter, and a Labrador Retriever named Sady. In her spare time, she enjoys water and alpine skiing, swimming, and reading.

Water-Wise Tips For Your Spring Cleanup

Storm drains in our streets and yards empty directly into our lakes and streams. Fertilizer on our driveways and sidewalks washes directly to our lakes and streams polluting the water. Here are some simple lawn care tips for a great looking lawn that will also help protect our environment:

- ◆ Don't pour your unwanted chemicals on the ground or down sinks. Instead, take them to a hazardous waste collection center.
- ◆ It's important to use chemical fertilizers, weed killers, and fungicides only as directed. Do not apply these products if rain is expected or near surface waters.
- ◆ Fertilizer left on sidewalks and driveways easily washes into storm drains. Sweep it back onto the lawn.
- ◆ Don't hose your lawn clippings away — sweep them up instead.
- ◆ Don't fertilize until three weeks after green up in the spring.
- ◆ Consider a fertilizer spreader with a directional control that avoids non-lawn areas.
- ◆ Instead of spreading weed killer over your entire lawn, use a pre-mixed spot treatment, directed at the root of the problem.

2012 Water and Wastewater System Improvements Projects

In an ongoing effort to enhance service to our customers and to provide preventative maintenance to our water distribution and wastewater collection systems, a number of infrastructure improvements projects will be taking place this year.

Golfside Drive Water Main Improvements

This project consists of replacing approximately 2,000 feet of existing water main on Golfside Drive between Washtenaw Avenue and Clark Road in the Charter Township of Ypsilanti. The project also includes improvements to approximately 2,000 feet of wastewater force main pipe and is being completed in conjunction with road improvements made by the Washtenaw County Road Commission. Total project costs are estimated at \$875,000.

Ecorse / Emerick / I-94 Water Main Improvements

This project consists of replacing approximately 14,500 feet of aging and undersized water main in the area bounded by Ecorse Road, Harris Road, I-94 and Emerick Street in the Charter Township of Ypsilanti. The work will be completed in advance of road improvements made by the Washtenaw County Road Commission. Total project costs are estimated at \$2,300,000.

West Cross Water Supply System Improvements

This project consists of replacement of approximately 1,800 feet of aging and undersized water main in West Cross Street between Washtenaw Avenue and Wallace Boulevard in the City of Ypsilanti. The work will be completed in conjunction with road improvements made by the City of Ypsilanti. Total project costs are estimated at \$550,000.

Factory Street Pump Station Improvements

The proposed scope of work includes removal and replacement of the existing screening equipment, all five existing pumps, the permanent standby generators, and new controls and instrumentation at the Factory Street Pump Station in the City of Ypsilanti. Total project costs are estimated at \$2,720,000. The project will be financed by a low-interest State Revolving Fund loan.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluent Water Upgrades

The proposed scope of work includes removal and replacement of the existing pumps installed as part of the original wastewater treatment plant construction along with installation of new pumps in the tertiary filter building constructed as part of the recent wastewater treatment expansion. Total project costs are estimated at \$1,035,000. The project will be financed by a low-interest State Revolving Fund loan.

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

Did You Know?

... For fascinating information about your water, check out YCUA's upcoming report on water quality that will be mailed to you this month. That report will also be viewable on our website at www.ycua.org.