

The Mainstream

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



From The Director

YCUA is pleased to announce the launch of its new odor control system. This system is designed to handle the foul air generated while wastewater solids are stored in the primary settling tanks and then processed in the solids handling facility.

A pilot study that was conducted at the YCUA facilities from 2008 through 2011 was successful, utilizing the aeration tanks to prevent the odorous air from escaping into the atmosphere. The foul air was pumped into the aeration tanks and the microorganisms removed the odor causing constituents from the air stream.

During the start up of the system in January of 2013, it was observed that moisture in the foul air was condensing in the pipes. This could cause damage to the foul air blower, therefore, a water separator was installed to remove the condensation from the pipes.

YCUA completed the permanent odor control system at a cost of \$1.95 million and the system is working as expected.

- YCUA 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 the 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, please go to: www.ycua.org or call 734-484-4600 ext. 307.

YCUA's Cross-Connection Control Program

This spring and summer, YCUA will be conducting residential cross-connection surveys. A cross-connection involves an arrangement of piping or appurtenances through which backflow of non-potable water could flow into the public drinking water. An example is the common garden hose submerged in a swimming pool or a bucket of detergent or other sources that would contaminate the water supply. When the proper conditions occur, water can backflow into the drinking water through a cross-connection. The two ways that contaminated water can backflow into the drinking water are back-siphonage and backpressure.

As required under the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, 1976 PA 399 and the Michigan Plumbing Code, it is the responsibility of the water utility to implement a cross-connection program, the purpose of which is to help protect public health by preventing pollution and / or contamination of the drinking water delivered to a home or business.

Residential accounts in the YCUA service area will be surveyed by a Meter Service Technician and are done on external water spigots and irrigation systems only. A letter is sent only if there is a non-compliance issue. A follow up survey is made to ensure that non-compliance issues have been resolved.

Cross-connection surveys will take place between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. For more information, please go to: www.ycua.org, click on Residential Users, and then click on Cross-Connection and Backflow Prevention. Or, you can call 734-484-4600 ext. 325.

Congratulations Scott Robinson

YCUA's Health and Safety Supervisor Scott E. Robinson recently became a published author. In January of 2013, his article discussing health and safety committee goals and objectives was featured in the "Who We Are and What We Are Doing" section of the Michigan Water Environment Association's *MWEA Matters* magazine. We are proud of this kind of industry leadership and community involvement, which is so often exhibited by YCUA employees. Congratulations Scott!

YCUA Welcomes New Board Members

Andy Cameron, a resident of Ypsilanti's Normal Park area, was appointed to serve on the YCUA Board of Commissioners on February 21, 2012 by the Ypsilanti City Council. He was elected as Secretary - Treasurer of the Board on March 1, 2012.

Michael Bodary was appointed to serve on the YCUA Board of Commissioners on August 21, 2012 by the Ypsilanti City Council. He was elected as Vice Chair of the Board on September 25, 2012. Mr. Bodary works as Senior Buyer and Facilities Coordinator in the Parking and Transportation Services department of the University of Michigan. He holds a bachelor's degree in management from Cleary University. Mr. Bodary served as an Ypsilanti City Council member for Ward 2 from 2008 through 2012. He is active in public and community service through S.O.S. Community Crisis Center Volunteer, Michigan Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association, United State Soccer Federation, and Measure for Measure, a men's chorus based in Ypsilanti.

Keith P. Jason was appointed to serve on the YCUA Board of Commissioners on March 12, 2013 by the Charter Township of Ypsilanti. Mr. Jason has completed both bachelor's and master's degrees and currently works as the College of Technology's Coordinator of Student Services at Eastern Michigan University. He serves as a co-chair of the campus-wide Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, teaches a technology class, and is a member of UAW 1976. Mr. Jason also serves as Vice Chair of the Ypsilanti Township Park Commission. Mr. Jason has lived in Ypsilanti Township's Sugarbrook community with his wife since 2006 where they are raising their two sons.

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.

2013 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.

Smokler-Textile Subdivision Water Supply Improvements

The proposed scope of work includes replacement or installation of approximately 10,500 feet of water main and appurtenances along with repairs to isolated portions of the wastewater collection system. The work will be completed in advance of road improvements made by the Washtenaw County Road Commission. The total project cost is estimated at \$2.14 million and is eligible for funding through the Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRF) loan program administered by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

2013 Water Main and Paving Improvements

The proposed scope of utility work includes replacement or installation of approximately 15,000 feet of water main and appurtenances along with repairs to isolated portions of the wastewater collection system. The work will occur in the neighborhoods between I-94 and Grove Road west of Rawsonville Road as well as the streets south of Holmes Road between Willow Run High School and Wiard Road. The utility improvements will be constructed in conjunction with road and drainage improvements being implemented by the Washtenaw County Road Commission on behalf of the Charter Township of Ypsilanti. Total water supply and wastewater related project costs are estimated at \$4.1 million.

Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Retention Basin Header and Septage Receiving Station Improvements

The proposed scope of work includes replacement of the pumps and piping associated with the retention basin discharge header. The existing pumps and piping were installed as part of the original WWTP construction and are both past their design life as well as being undersized. Improvements to the septage receiving station include installation of screening equipment and flow meters upstream of the existing pumps. The pumps were installed as part of the recent WWTP expansion but have been prone to clogging due to rags and other debris introduced by the various septage haulers that discharge to the facility. Total project costs are estimated at \$1.6 million. The project will be financed by a low-interest State Revolving Fund loan administered by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

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?

YCUA's annual Consumer Confidence Drinking Water Quality Report will be mailed to you soon. After May 1, 2013, the report will be viewable on our website at www.ycu.org/waterreport.pdf. Please call us at 734-484-4600 ext. 107 if you are unable to access the Internet and wish to continue having a paper copy of the report delivered to your home.