

## Notes From the Director:

A winter influenced by "La Nina" is fast approaching. According to weather forecasters, this means colder than usual temperatures.

Water expands when it freezes and can cause problems when this occurs inside a water line. In this issue of "Main Stream," we give you some tips on winter maintenance for your home water system.

Cold weather can also cause main breaks. Although our distribution mains are buried deep enough to prevent freezing, the frost and frozen earth above them can cause stress which results in ruptures. When you see YCUA crews working in the road repairing these main breaks, please slow down and proceed with caution so they can safely continue their work.

This issue also highlights Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations. The task of cleaning the wastewater collected from the homes, businesses, and industries of our service area is complex and interesting. Our wastewater treatment staff is proficient and dedicated to its operation so that clean water can be safely returned to the environment.

Sincerely,

*Larry R. Thomas*  
Larry R. Thomas

## Eyes and Ears . . .

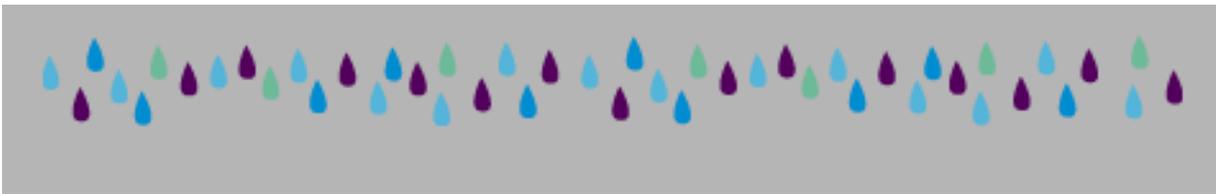
"Eyes and Ears" is a program aimed at providing emergency service through the cooperation of alert, radio-equipped utility company employees and the Washtenaw County Law Enforcement Agencies. "Eyes and Ears" focuses specifically on reporting suspicious persons and situations that appear to be related to criminal activity.



Since 1995, YCUA vehicles marked with the "Eyes and Ears" logo have served as emergency reporting stations that you may approach to quickly summon emergency services. YCUA employees in these vehicles have been instructed on how to report suspicious persons. This program makes YCUA and its employees partners with local law enforcement, neighborhood watch programs, and the community.

## Recent and Ongoing Construction Projects

Project:	Start Date:	End Date:
Oakland Willow Sub Water Main	9/21/98	7/31/99
Pilot Scale Compost Facility	3/1/98	1/1/99
Stone Water Tower Roof	12/1/98	1/1/99
Bridge Road Water Tank Painting	8/25/98	11/1/98
Forest Avenue Water Main	6/15/98	9/1/98



## Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is located at 2777 State Road in Ypsilanti Township near Willow Run. The WWTP's daily capacity is 28.9 million gallons per day (mgd). The current average daily sewage flow into the plant is 22 mgd. The plant receives wastewater from the City of Ypsilanti, and the Townships of Ypsilanti, Pittsfield, Superior, York, Augusta, Sumpter, Northville, Plymouth, and Canton.

The YCUA wastewater plant is a tertiary treatment plant, meaning that three treatment processes are used to clean the wastewater:

1. Solids are settled or skimmed out.
2. Microorganisms break up dissolved materials and nutrients by using them as a food source.
3. Filtration through sand/charcoal filters catches any remaining solids. The water is further treated with disinfectants and returned to the environment.



YCUA Wastewater Treatment Plant

Twenty dry tons of sludge is generated per day. The sludge is incinerated and landfilled. In January 1999, YCUA will begin operating a compost facility as an alternative to landfilling.

Thirty-six employees operate and maintain the plant 24 hours a day. To ensure that only safe water returns to the environment, the staff must operate the plant to achieve compliance with the

## Weather Preparation

Don't let cold weather catch you unprepared! Every winter many homeowners face the expense and inconvenience of frozen water pipes. You can cross this off your list of winter worries by taking a few simple precautions . . .

1. Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses. Detaching the hose allows water to drain from the pipe. Otherwise, a single hard, overnight freeze can burst either the faucet or the pipe it's connected to.
2. Insulate pipes or faucets in unheated areas, pipes in a garage or cold crawl space should be wrapped with insulation. Hardware or building supply stores are sources for proper pipe wrapping materials. Seal off access doors, air vents and cracks. Repair broken basement windows. Winter winds whistling through overlooked openings can quickly freeze exposed water pipes, don't plug air vents to your furnace or water heater. However,
3. Find and brightly mark the master shutoff, most likely located where the water line comes in from the street. If a pipe bursts anywhere in the house, anyone in the family can turn the valve off. Some customers have a meter in a pit outdoors. It is the home-owner's responsibility to keep the pit covered and freeze-proof.

All of us at YCUA hope you have a safe and enjoyable winter!

## YCUA Employees Come Through for the United Way



Once again, YCUA employees showed their compassion to those in need in our community. AFSCME Local 3451, Teamsters Local 214, and Management employees pledged **\$13,884**. A 21% increase over last year! Thanks again!

