

# The Main Stream

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a quarterly newsletter dedicated to enhancing water and wastewater services brought to you by the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority



## SUMMERTIME AT YCUA

With warm summer weather comes gardening, pool parties, car washes, and children running through sprinklers. All of these fun summer activities place a greater demand on our distribution system to deliver fresh water. This increased water flow in our transmission mains can result in high- and low-pressure surges for our customers, and if the stress is great enough, water main breaks.

To combat this problem, we sometimes enact odd/even day water restrictions. What this means is that odd-numbered addresses use outside water only on odd-numbered days and even-numbered addresses use outside water only on even-numbered days. If severe drought conditions exist, it may be necessary to restrict outdoor water usage altogether.

If required, these restrictions will be publicized in the local newspaper and on YCUA's web site ([www.ycua.org](http://www.ycua.org)). When these restrictions are in place, please obey them so that all customers in our water distribution system can have outside water on their assigned days. YCUA is doing its part to help reduce restrictions caused by water main breaks, by continuously upgrading the distribution system. The Critical Connection and Clean Construction Via Pipebursting articles in this issue of the *Main Stream* describe such improvements.

Our historic stone water tower built in 1890 at Cross and Summit Streets will be open to the public on Saturday, August 19, 2000, as part of the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival. At the top of the Stone Tower is a 250,000-gallon water tank which is still in use today as part of our distribution system. Please stop by to see this interesting and historical facility as part of your Heritage Festival activities.

Have a wonderful summer, and feel free to contact me anytime at [director@provide.net](mailto:director@provide.net) or at 734.484.4600.

Sincerely,

Larry R. Thomas,  
Director

## Did you know . . .

A single dripping faucet can waste far more water in a single day than one person needs for drinking in an entire week! Save money and precious resources - don't wait to fix a drip!

## CRITICAL CONNECTION



A second connection to the Detroit Water System is in the planning stages. This connection is critical for several reasons:

- As a backup measure in case the original connection fails
- To serve the growing YCUA service area
- To allow better management of water pressure, which will help reduce the number of costly water line breaks
- To allow for maintenance of our connection to the Detroit system without having to turn off the water supply to the entire YCUA service area at once

The necessity of having this second connection hit home in May 2000 when one of Detroit's lines into our connection broke. This huge 48-inch line split wide open under high pressures. Had that been on YCUA's side of the connection to the system, YCUA would not have been able to replenish its water reserves until the line was repaired. Water service to our community is too critical to depend on only one connection.

It was always our intention to eventually build a second connection, and we hope to start work on this project in the next year. We are currently evaluating alternate routes and sites for this second connection. The existing connection is in the Willow Run Airport area. This will be a large undertaking, but YCUA is committed to providing reliable, quality water to our customers.

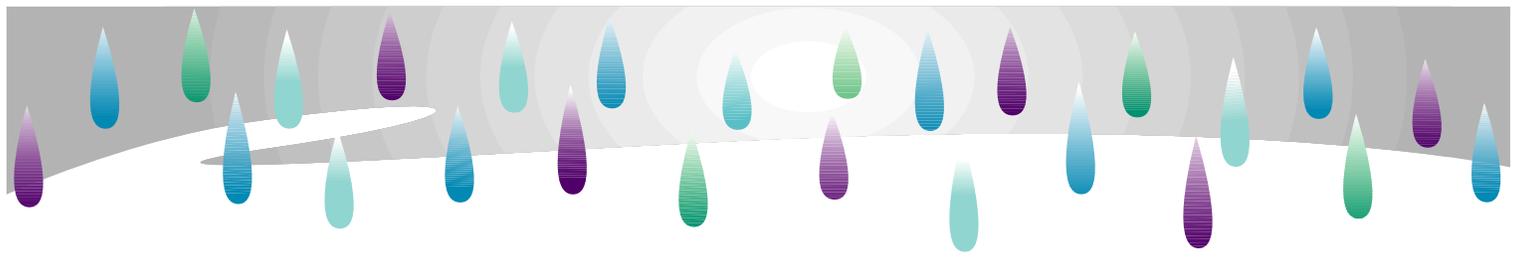


## EYES & EARS TRAINING

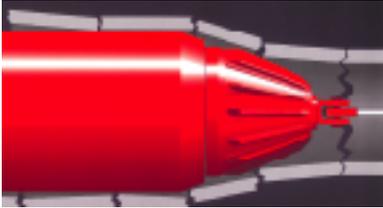
This summer YCUA staff will attend "Eyes & Ears" training hosted by the Washtenaw County Sheriff's office to update their emergency response skills. Since 1995, YCUA vehicles marked with the "Eyes & Ears" logo have served as emergency reporting stations that any citizen may approach to call for help. YCUA crew members in these vehicles have also been coached on how to report suspicious activities or persons. This program helps to provide an extra measure of safety in our community!



your water and wastewater service providers



## CLEANER CONSTRUCTION VIA PIPEBURSTING



This summer YCUA will be starting a project to replace the water line on Prospect Street between Cross Street and Holmes Road. The approximate length of the water line replacement is 3,000 feet, and the capacity of the

line will be expanded from 6 inches to 8 inches. However, the exciting thing about this project is that the old line will not be removed! This means that residents will not have to suffer through the mess and inconvenience of torn-up roads and landscaping.

How is this possible? "Pipebursting" or "Trenchless Construction" is a new technique for rehabilitating a water line without the inconvenience of traditional construction. It involves pulling new, heat-fused pipe into an existing line while simultaneously bursting the old line with a pneumatic hammer. This method of construction is extremely cost-effective in situations where the line runs under roads, utilities, and any other place where an open cut is difficult to achieve. It even allows upsizing of the diameter of the existing line.

YCUA is always looking at new technologies to help cut the cost of providing water and sewer service to the community. This particular technology not only reduces cost, it preserves your quality of life during construction!

## HOT WATER CONCERNS

Have you been experiencing any of these problems:

- Loss of **hot water** volume and pressure?
- The appearance of tiny white or gray particles in your **hot water**?

If so, and your water heater was manufactured or repaired between 1993 and 1996, you may have a defective dip tube, and may qualify to participate in the "Dip Tube Settlement." A dip tube is a plastic pipe that delivers cold water into a water heater so that it will produce hot water. For more information on this settlement, or to see if you qualify, visit [www.diptubsettlement.com](http://www.diptubsettlement.com) or call 1.800.329.0561.

## UPCOMING TOURS

The Ypsilanti Area Heritage Festival will take place August 18th through 20th this year. YCUA will be providing tours of the famous stone tower near the campus of Eastern Michigan University on Saturday, August 19th, from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. If you have not seen the views from the tower, please consider joining us that day. The primary activities for the Festival will take place in Riverside Park between Cross and Michigan Avenue near the Huron River. Please check the local papers for more information.



On September 23rd, YCUA will host a Public Open House. Everyone is welcome to come and tour both of YCUA's main facilities, starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Service Center on the corner of Ridge and Clark Roads, and at 12:00 noon at the WWTP at the corner of State and McGregor.

## ODOR SCRUBBER SUCCESS !

In February, the odor scrubber for the Headworks (where the sewage enters the wastewater treatment plant) went on-line. It has been a complete success. The most offensive smells leaving the grounds of the plant have been eliminated, and staff and local residents are pleased with the results.

Now that these major odors are under control, YCUA has put together a panel of staff to regularly survey the wastewater treatment plant to pinpoint other odor sources. In just a short period of time, they have identified another source of offensive smells, our sludge thickener tanks. Though not as pervasive as the odors that used to come from the Headworks, this odor source also needs to be minimized.

Planning and investigation phases are underway to address this next step in our odor control program. We are pleased with our progress to date, and will continue to work to assure our plant is not a nuisance to our neighbors or our staff.

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Kudos?

**ALL WELCOME! - Contact YCUA at 734.484.4600 or [www.ycu.org](http://www.ycu.org)**