

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

Service for the Year 2000

We are happy to report that because of our staff's extensive Y2K preparation, we passed into the new millennium without any calamity. One side benefit of planning for Y2K is that YCUA is now well equipped to react to potential future emergencies.

In late February, our new odor control equipment became operational on a trial basis. Once tested, the equipment, which "scrubs" odors from the headworks process (where raw sewage enters the plant), will be ready for full operation by YCUA staff. This will significantly reduce odors for everyone living and working near the wastewater treatment plant (just in time for the warmer weather!)

After five years with no increase in basic residential water and sewer rates, YCUA recently instituted a 5.4% rate increase. This was necessary because our costs for doing business increase each year. We have absorbed several water rate increases from the Detroit Water & Sewerage Department over the past five years, and the cost of electricity, gas and labor increase for YCUA, just as they do for everyone.

Additionally, YCUA needs to continually replace and improve its aging water distribution and sewage collection mains to ensure reliable service. An article in this issue about a major transmission sewer replacement highlights the need for funding to perform system maintenance and necessary improvements.

Providing reliable and cost-effective water and wastewater services to our customers is YCUA's number one priority. As always, I welcome your feedback on how we can improve our level of service.

Sincerely,

Larry Thomas
Director

**HOUSEHOLD
HAZARDOUS
WASTE
HOTLINE**

734.971.7356

Please call for
information on
drop-off times
and locations.

Stormwater Runoff Concerns

Stormwater runoff is rainwater, that lands on houses, streets, yards, farmland, etc., then travels above ground into surface waters, such as streams, rivers, and lakes. In the process, runoff picks up pollutants, eroded soil, fertilizers, trash, fluids, and trace metals that eventually wash directly into our rivers. Studies by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) show that up to 70% of all water pollution is caused by stormwater runoff.



While industrial pollution (including YCUA's discharge) has been regulated for at least 20 years, parts of the Huron River still fail to meet federal water quality standards almost 90% of the time. Preventing pollution is much easier and less costly than trying to mitigate environmental damage after it's occurred.

Here is how you can help to control stormwater runoff pollution, and keep our rivers, lakes, and streams clean!

- Don't spill oil or toxic fluids outdoors or into drains
- Maintain vehicles to assure they don't leak oils and fluids
- Reduce the use of fertilizer, pesticides and weedkillers
- Mow higher (up to 3 inches) during warm, dry months
- Use plants native to Michigan
- Don't over-water and water early or late in the day
- Reduce your use of road salt
- Pick up loose trash to keep the environment clean
- Encourage your local government to follow stormwater "best management practices"

YCUA is interested in helping to protect surface and ground water supplies for future generations. However, YCUA does not process stormwater at its facilities, nor are we responsible for storm sewer facilities in the community. Ditches, creeks, and catch basins are managed and maintained by local municipal and county departments.

Did you know . . .

A water-powered sump pump provides the advantage of operating during power failures. If you choose to install a water-powered sump pump in your home or facility, be sure to include an automatic water valve with a backflow preventer. Without this valve, it is possible that sump water could be drawn into your drinking water system!

YCUA

your water and wastewater service providers

Human Resources Department



The Human Resources (HR) Department was formed in 1995 to formally address the needs of the workforce at YCUA. This includes traditional personnel activities like recruiting, hiring, collective bargaining, grievance administration and benefits, along with more modern activities such as:

- A first-rate safety program
- Standardization of personnel policies and procedures
- Team and supervisory training
- Job analysis and evaluation
- Strategic planning
- Office technology
- Insurance programs
- Assembling, implementing, and monitoring equal opportunity programs (see article below)



*Kent Herbert, Thomas Kmet,
Sandy Sibbitt*

The HR Director, Kent Herbert, also assists in the preparation of the quarterly Main Stream newsletter and is in charge of content for the web site (www.ycua.org).

There are currently 130 employees at YCUA, and because of our low turnover rate, and the fact that we have never had a general layoff, vacancies are infrequent. Typically, there are about six positions requiring new hires each year. For more information or to apply, visit our web site or stop by our office at the Administration Building between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

YCUA Adopts Equal Employment

Opportunity (EEO) Policy: At the YCUA Board Meeting on February 17th, an EEO Policy was adopted. The new policy outlines methods for reviewing and analyzing the various steps of the recruitment and selection process, a complaint handling process, education on EEO procedures, recordkeeping and reporting requirements. It also requires an analysis to be undertaken when employment of women and minorities falls short of the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti labor market averages. Contractors of YCUA will also be required to submit a work force profile and EEO policy statement in their bids. YCUA will continue to make a good faith effort to assure that minorities and women are not discriminated against and to enforce policies against racial or sexual harassment.

Southern Sector Transmission Sewer Replacement

In March 1999, a section of sanitary sewer near McKean and Textile Roads collapsed. This is a major transmission line that carries sewage from the southern portion of Ypsilanti Township, all of Augusta and Pittsfield Townships, and parts of Superior Township, including St Joseph-Mercy Hospital. To restore service to this vital link, an emergency bypass section of sewer was built to temporarily replace the collapsed section.

To prevent future collapses, YCUA hired McNamee, Porter & Seeley, Inc., to perform an engineering study and inspection of the collapsed sewer. The study determined that the collapse was caused by severe corrosion of the concrete pipe due to sewer gas. Recommendations included replacing the sewer with corrosion-resistant pipes and reinforcing the sewer crossing at the Huron River. The ideal choice was Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) pipe, because it does not react with sewer gas.



The Cured-In-Place Pipe (CIPP) lining technology was selected as the best option to reinforce the sewer crossing. The CIPP process was developed by Insituform Technologies, Inc., and is achieved by inserting a soft tube into the existing pipe and then circulating hot water inside the tube until it expands into place. After curing for about four hours, the soft tube forms a hard pipe inside the existing sewer. This new liner seals cracks and reinforces the pipe.

Approximately 3,200 feet of 30-inch diameter sanitary sewer was replaced with 42-inch pipe from Textile Road to the Huron River crossing. The larger diameter sewer was selected to accommodate anticipated future flows. The replacement and improvement project was completed and placed on line in April.

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Kudos?

**ALL WELCOME! - Contact YCUA at
734.484.4600 or www.ycua.org**