

YPSILANTI COMMUNITY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

Environmental Leaders



The Mainstream

Water Meter Replacement Program

The Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YCUA) has begun a Water Meter Replacement Program for all residential and business customers. This initiative is part of YCUA's Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) program, a technology upgrade designed to provide greater value to our customers by improving service and the efficiency of our meter department. AMI collects and transmits real-time water usage directly to the residents and water department, providing enhanced capabilities including detecting unusual changes in water usage.



A majority of YCUA customers will have their current meter replaced with the Sonata Allegro water meter. This is an ultrasonic water meter designed for accurate measurement of potable water. The Sonata Allegro's unique design delivers precise flow measurement without any moving parts. YCUA anticipates your water meter will be a maintenance free device for up to 20 years of operation.

As part of a State of Michigan loan program, YCUA has contracted with VEPO Metering to replace all water meters less than 3" in the City of Ypsilanti. There is no cost to the City resident for this meter replacement. VEPO Technicians will be visiting your residence during the next year to install the new meter. VEPO Technicians will have identification, wear uniforms with a photo ID, travel in marked vehicles and have completed background checks. YCUA staff will be working closely with the VEPO Technicians and will be in close proximity during all installations. Just over 4,100 City water meters will be upgraded in the next 12 months!

As part of a separately funded project, all Township residents will have their water meters replaced by YCUA staff. There is no cost to the Township resident for this meter replacement. Meter replacement in the Township will be completed in neighborhood groups during the next few years. All YCUA staff installers will have identification, wear uniforms with a photo ID, travel in marked vehicles, and have completed background checks. YCUA currently plans to replace 12,399 water meters in the Township during the next 3-4 years!

In the coming weeks, YCUA customers will receive a letter with instructions on how to schedule the water meter replacement which should take 30-60 minutes including a brief interruption of water service and an inspection of the water service line material.

Please contact YCUA at 734.484.4600 ext. 300 if you have any questions about AMI or how this meter change-out program will impact you. We're committed to protecting and ensuring the quality of the water and service we provide.



Inside this issue

Water Meter Replacement Program.....	1
Brick Elementary STEM Day	2
From the Executive Director.....	2
Emergency Notifications.....	2
EPA Get the Lead Out (GLO) Initiative.....	3
Headworks Odor Control Rehabilitation..	3
What is a Rain Garden?	3
Built to Last: Ypsilanti's Stone Tower.....	4
YCUA's Fiftieth Anniversary.....	4
Construction Corner.....	5
Need More Information.....	5
Board of Commissioners' Meetings.....	5
2024 Quality Water Report.....	6
MWEA Professional of the Year Awards..	6





2nd Annual Brick Elementary STEM Day

YCUA participated in Brick Elementary's 2nd Annual STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Career Day on May 5th, 2025. Along with over 100 local businesses, YCUA employees from the Service Center and our WWTP Laboratory shared details of their typical workday with the students at Brick Elementary School with the goal of educating students on the importance of furthering their education and learning how STEM careers affect their world. In addition to learning about careers in water, students from three elementary schools experienced careers from construction, to medical, to the FBI and beyond!

Students had the opportunity to learn from our Lab Technicians about water testing for pollutants while learning about typical responsibilities working as a laboratory technicians. Tech-

nicians shared with students the process of treating wastewater and how it is returned to the environment as clean water.

While talking with YCUA Line Service Technicians, many students had the opportunity to sit in our backhoe, learn about the vactor truck and what it does, and watch a demonstration of how to flush and televise a sewer.

For copies of YCUA's Water Careers trifold, contact Karen Groulx at 734.484.4600 ext. 107.



"Thanks again for participating in Lincoln's 2nd annual STEM Day and knocking it out of the park!!!. The children that I watched appeared to love the YCUA exhibits."

Emergency Notifications

Sign Up Today!

You can sign up for YCUA's Everbridge Notification System which is utilized to communicate directly with our customers about water main breaks, boil water advisories, and other water-related emergencies. These notifications are sent directly to affected homes.

Everbridge is a secure communication service allowing local, county, and state agencies to connect with local residents. Sign up for emergency information from YCUA and government officials through email, landline phones, and text messages by visiting <https://washtenaw.org/alerts> or scan the QR Code below.

From our Executive Director

It is never pleasant to deal with a sewer backup. While sewer backups occur for a number of reasons, they are typically caused by a blockage in the plumbing system in the home or, in some cases, a blockage or defect in the public sewer system. Basements may back up or flood for one or more of the following reasons:

- Heavy rainstorms or snowmelt (flooding can also occur during light rain and dry days due to private plumbing or foundation issues).
- Basement foundation cracks or other structural issues.
- Grading of dirt, mulch or other material that declines toward the house rather than away from the house.
- Drain tiles cracked or broken on the property.
- Blocked, collapsed, or cracked private sewer lines (your pipe may be blocked with roots, wipes, or other debris).
- Plumbing leaks inside your home.
- Blockage or failure in the YCUA sewer.

In most cases, basement flooding damages are not covered by insurance, unless you have overland flooding insurance and a sewage backup rider. If your private sewer lateral service line and/or plumbing causes the flooding or backup, it is often the case that insurance will not provide any relief. YCUA, is responsible for damage from a sewer backup if the backup was caused by a defect in the public sewer system that YCUA knew about and failed to correct in a reasonable amount of time.

Please visit www.ycua.org to learn more about what residents can do to reduce the risk of basement flooding.

- Luther Blackburn, YCUA Executive Director

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Get the Lead Out (GLO) Initiative

On August 8, 2024, Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YCUA) hosted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Chief Bruno Pigott, Representative Debbie Dingell, Michigan Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Director Phillip Roos, Michigan 6th District Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, and Ypsilanti Township Supervisor Benda Stumbo with a focus on the "Get the Lead Out" (GLO) Initiative. Thanks to President Biden's Investing in America Agenda, YCUA is working closely with the EPA to identify water lead service lines and to provide community education on lead service lines. With the support of the EPA, YCUA employees were able to go door-to-door over several months to identify material in unknown water service lines in both the City and Township.



Pictured (left to right): EPA Water Chief Bruno Pigott, U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, Ypsilanti Township Supervisor Brenda Stumbo, EGLE Director Phillip Roos, and YCUA Executive Director Luther Blackburn.

Headworks Odor Control and Influent Well Rehabilitation

Earlier this summer, YCUA completed significant upgrades to the Headworks Odor Control Facility and the influent receiving well at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), located at 2777 State Road, Ypsilanti, Michigan. The primary goal of this project was to improve the odor control system which removes the malodorous elements of the foul air generated at the plant and discharges stable (scrubbed) air to the atmosphere. The existing system, originally installed in the late 1990s and upgraded in 2002, is being modernized to enhance performance and reliability.

Successfully completed updates include:

- ⇒ Removal of sodium hypochlorite and sodium hydroxide bulk chemical storage tanks
- ⇒ Mechanical system upgrades
- ⇒ HVAC improvements
- ⇒ Electrical and plumbing installations
- ⇒ Rehabilitation of deteriorated concrete surfaces in the raw sewage influent receiving well



Pictured: Installation of a new chemical storage tank.

Please immediately report any nuisance odors that you believe are coming from a sewer, pump station, and/or the treatment plant to YCUA. A YCUA staff member can be reached 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 734-544-7137.

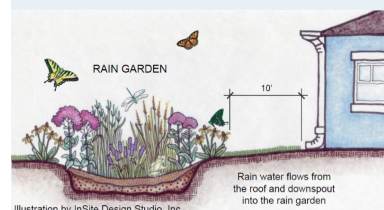
What is a rain garden?

A beautiful garden where water puddles. The rain water from your roof or driveway goes to the rain garden and soaks in there. The garden is a safe place for water to soak in. (Water should never puddle or soak in close to your house. This can cause water in the basement.) Correctly locating and building a rain garden can solve lots of yard flooding problems! Rain gardens capture storm water runoff before it pollutes our local rivers while providing beautiful gardens throughout the growing season.

One inch of rainfall means 600 gallons of water will be captured by a typical rain garden. Captured water won't go to municipal pipes, won't add pollution to the river, and won't contribute to flooding. This water will recharge the groundwater. Before it does, it keeps the garden looking green and lush.

A rain garden is an attractive landscaping feature planted with perennial native plants. It is a bowl-shaped or saucer-shaped garden, designed to absorb storm water run-off from impervious surfaces such as roofs and parking lots. Rain gardens can be small home-owner style gardens, large complex gardens, or anywhere in between.

Rain gardens capture storm-water runoff before it pollutes our local rivers - while providing beautiful garden scapes throughout the growing season.



Historic YCUA 50th Anniversary Celebration

Built to Last



Ypsilanti's historic Water Tower is featured in the YouTube Series, Built to Last, a series dedicated to unraveling the secrets behind enduring infrastructure. The Ypsilanti Water Tower has provided water to City residents since it was put in service in 1890!

In the late 1880s, Ypsilanti, Michigan, faced serious sanitation and fire safety issues, relying on polluted river water and private wells. Enter W.R. Coats, a renowned hydraulics engineer, who designed a revolutionary water system that transformed the city. Coats' innovative design included an elevated storage concept, pumping water to a reservoir on the city's highest point, ensuring efficient water distribution and fire protection.

Constructed with local labor and materials, the tower has stood the test of time, undergoing several restorations while maintaining its historical integrity.

Today, Ypsilanti's Stone Tower remains a testament to exceptional engineering, community pride, and dedicated maintenance. A true symbol of Ypsilanti's spirit and resilience!

View Built to Last: Ypsilanti's Stone Tower on YouTube at:

[Built to Last - Ypsilanti, Michigan Stone Tower - Episode 9](#)



The Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority was formed in 1974 by the coming together of the City of Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Charter Township. The driving force behind the merger between the two water and sewer departments was a desire to minimize rising costs and to take advantage of federal funds available from the Clean Water Act to help build a much-needed wastewater treatment plant and related facilities. 2024 was especially noteworthy for YCUA as it marked the 50th anniversary of the Authority as the City and Township came together to officially form our great utility on September 3, 1974.

Reflecting on the history, achievements, and challenges that have occurred over this period, it is inspiring that YCUA's anniversary is closely tied to the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. YCUA would not be celebrating 50 years of success without the remarkable team members who have and are dedicating their careers to being on this team.

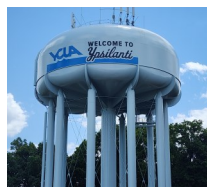
On September 25, 2024, over 130 team members including our staff, retirees, elected officials, contract communities, and various vendors and consultants celebrated and reminisced YCUA's journey and achievements over the last 50 years! Guest speakers included YCUA Executive Director Luther Blackburn, Ypsilanti Township Supervisor Brenda Stumbo, President at Water and Energy Advisors Joh Kang, and YCUA Board of Commissioners' Chair Michael Bodary. All attendees were provided the opportunity to tour the Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility and Stone Tower.



Construction Corner Success!

The following construction projects were recently completed:

- East Sugarbrook Water Main and Pavement Improvements: Water main replacement and pavement restoration for the area bounded by I-94, Foley Avenue, McCarthy Street, and George Avenue, including Harry Street south to Grove Road.
- Water Service Line Identification: YCUA staff, supported by contractors with the United States Environmental Protection Agency Get the Lead Out program and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Technical, Managerial and Financial grant, completed a materials inventory of all public and privately owned portions of water services pipes in the City and Township and submitted the required data to EGLE by the October 16, 2024 deadline.
- Wittier Road Sanitary Sewer Replacement: The existing sanitary sewer pipe previously identified by YCUA staff as being partially-collapsed and not repairable was removed and replaced with new pipe.
- Shadford Tower Project: Essential infrastructure upgrades to enhance structural integrity and visual appeal of the tower including sandblasting and painting of the tower.



**Need
More
Information?**

Please visit us at
[Ypsilanti Community Utilities
Authority \(ycua.org\)](https://ycua.org)
or
call 734-484-4600

The YCUA office will be closed to
observe the holidays as follows:

September 1: Labor Day
November 11: Veteran's Day
November 27-28: Thanksgiving
December 24-25: Christmas

You can refill an 8 oz glass with YCUA water more than 5,000 times for the same cost as one container of bottled water?! In addition, the quality of YCUA's water is wonderful!

The following construction projects are in progress:

- West Warner Avenue & Harriet Street Water Main Improvements: Replacement of water main along Harriet Street between 1st Avenue and Hawkins Street as well as installation of new water main at the north end of West Warner Street to provide a redundant source of supply. These upgrades are part of a larger infrastructure improvement effort and will help improve water system reliability and service quality in the area. The Harriet Street work will precede reconstruction of the road surface.
- Ellsworth Storage Tank: Essential infrastructure upgrades to enhance structural integrity and visual appeal including sandblasting and painting of the water storage tank.
- Clark Road Water Booster Pump Station Replacement: Demolition of existing water booster pump station building, including all existing pump and control equipment, replacement with a new water booster pump station building, pump and control equipment, permanent natural gas backup generator, approximately 100 feet of water main and ancillary mechanical, electrical and site improvements along with upgrades to electrical and SCADA controls for the nearby Maplewood Sanitary Pump Station.
- Lead Service Line Replacements: Replacement existing service lines of lead (or galvanized iron pipe downstream of lead) on the public and/or private side of the property in compliance with Michigan's revised Lead and Copper Rule.
- Water Meter Replacement: a multi-phased, multi-year project to upgrade almost 24,000 existing water meters in the system including fixed-network advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) and customer interface system (CIS). The first phase, which includes the AMI and CIS along with all meters 4" diameter and larger, will be complete before the end of 2025. Phase 2, which includes all meters 3" diameter and smaller in the City, will be completed by mid 2026 and phase 3, which includes all meters 3" diameter and smaller in the Township, will be completed by the end of 2030.

Board of Commissioners' Meetings

Board of Commissioners' meetings are generally held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. Meetings are open to the public.

Visit [Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority \(ycua.org\)](https://ycua.org) for meeting schedules, agendas, and minutes.

Upcoming meeting dates:

- August 27, 2025
- September 24, 2025
- October 22, 2025
- November 19, 2025
- December 17, 2025

2024 Water Quality Report

A CCR provides information on your local drinking water quality, including the water source, contaminant levels, EPA standards for acceptable contaminant levels, and other information about your water system. CCRs include data from monitoring drinking water from the previous calendar year. Visit our webpage <http://www.ycua.org> to view the current CCR.

MWEA PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARDS

YCUA is thrilled to extend a heartfelt congratulations to Sree Mullapudi and Don Nichols as recipients of Michigan Water Environment Association (MWEA) Professional of the Year Awards at the recent 100th Annual Conference.

The Industrial Pretreatment Program Professional of the Year, awarded to Sree Mullapudi Director of Wastewater Operations and Compliance, recognizes an individual working on a day-to-day basis in the Industrial Pretreatment Program, displaying remarkable dedication to his or her employer and to the MWEA, excelling professionally, and publicly promoting the wastewater treatment profession. The Health & Safety Professional of the Year awarded, to Don Nichols Health and Safety Manager, recognizes an individual working on a day-to-day basis in Health & Safety, demonstrating outstanding dedication to his or her employer and to the MWEA, excelling professionally, and publicly promoting the Health & Safety Professions.



Pictured (top): Sree Mullapudi with MWEA President Mark Earl. (Below): Don Nichols with MWEA President Mark Earl.



Ypsilanti Community Utilities
Authority

2777 State Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48198-9112

Phone: 734-484-4600

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

To:

