



YCUA's Snow Road Pump Station Sewer Main Collapse

In 1979, the original construction of one of YCUA's Big Four pump stations was completed on Snow Road in Ypsilanti Township. The other three stations are located on Spring Street, Martz Road, and Airport Drive.

The Snow Road pump station has a firm pumping capacity of 33.5 million gallons per day (MGD) of sanitary sewage to the wastewater treatment plant. Snow Road primarily receives its wastewater from the pump station at Martz Road that receives almost all sewage flow from those portions of the service area west of the City of Ypsilanti and south of Ford Lake. This area includes a significant portion of Ypsilanti Township along with all flow from the contract communities of Pittsfield Township, York Township, Augusta Township, and Sumpter Township.

The Martz Road pump station has a firm capacity of 22.4 MGD and discharges all flow to Snow Road through a 30-inch diameter force main. In addition to all flow from Martz Road, Snow Road receives flow from the area within Ypsilanti Township east of Whittaker Road, south of I-94, and north of Merritt Road.

Since it went into service in 1979, there have been two major upgrades to the Snow Road pump station. The first phase was in the early 2000s when the station's discharge piping was

replaced. The second phase was in the mid 2000s when all five of the original pumps were replaced with five MGD dry pit centrifugal pumps along with their associated equipment.

On Sunday, February 13, 2022, YCUA's maintenance department learned of a significant collapse on the 24-inch sewer main located at the Snow Road pump station. This

collapse compromised the ability of the Martz Road pump station to convey sewage to the Snow Road pump station via its discharge line, which runs under the Huron River. With the inability of the Martz Road station to pump to the Snow Road station, a contractor was obtained to bypass nearly eight MGD of sanitary sewage via multiple bypass pumps and temporary piping at multiple locations. The bypass pumping and temporary piping were necessary in order to prevent the sewage from having an adverse effect on homeowners' property or the environment. YCUA maintenance department staff along with two contractors worked around the clock 24-7 until the repair was completed on March 11, 2022.

After the repairs were completed, YCUA's maintenance department worked diligently to repair and clean the inner workings of the Snow Road pump station that were compromised during the in-rush of soil and debris from the collapse. The clean up and repairs are ongoing.



Original sink hole.



The 18-inch bypass pipe into the Snow Road wet well.

YPSILANTI COMMUNITY UTILITIES AUTHORITY



YCUA's semiannual newsletter dedicated to enhancing water and wastewater services.

From The Executive Director

On April 16, 2022, YCUA detected that a ransomware infection began encrypting files stored on our business network. Upon learning of this issue, we contained the threat by disabling all unauthorized access to our network, restored all encrypted data, and immediately commenced a prompt and thorough investigation. YCUA immediately launched an investigation in consultation with outside cybersecurity professionals who regularly investigate and analyze these types of situations to analyze the extent of any compromise of the information on our networks.

At the conclusion of the investigation, we determined that an unauthorized individual or individuals gained access to our network and as a result, potentially obtained limited personal information. At that time, we began a comprehensive review of the affected files to identify the individuals impacted. The impacted files contained personal information belonging to our current and former employees as well as ACH information belonging to our customers.

At YCUA, protecting the privacy of personal information is a top priority. YCUA is committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in its possession and has taken precautions to safeguard it. YCUA has contracted with Security Mentor, Inc., an expert in security awareness and education services, to provide staff cyber-security training. YCUA has additionally adjusted business practices to improve the safeguarding of sensitive information. Lastly, YCUA is looking into additional opportunities in threat assessment and cybersecurity

assistance with Eastern Michigan University and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Due to the current state of cybersecurity in today's society, YCUA suggests you consider taking the following steps:

- Remain vigilant in reviewing your financial account statements for fraudulent or irregular activity on a regular basis.
- If your bank account information was impacted, YCUA recommends that you contact your financial institution to inquire about steps to take to protect your account, including whether you should close your account or obtain a new account number.

- Consider placing a fraud alert and/or security freeze on your credit file.
- Order a free credit report. Under federal law, you are entitled to one free credit report every 12 months from the three major nationwide credit reporting companies (Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion). Call 1-877-322-8228 or request your free credit reports online at www.annualcreditreport.com. Once you receive your credit reports, review them for discrepancies. Identify any accounts you did not open or inquiries from creditors that you did not authorize. Verify all information is correct. If you have questions or notice incorrect information, contact the credit reporting company. Even if you do not find any suspicious activity on your initial credit reports, the Federal Trade Commission recommends that you check your credit reports periodically. Checking your credit report periodically can help you spot problems and address them quickly.

- Luther Blackburn, YCUA Executive Director



Image courtesy Marta Branco from Pexels.

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Fire Hydrant Annual Inspections

Beginning September 6th, YCUA will perform its annual winterization of the over 3,000 fire hydrants in its system, including a check of their operation for fire protection. The procedure involves an employee completing an inspection of the internal workings of each fire hydrant, making repairs, and removing water from the hydrant barrels to prevent freezing.

YCUA will also flush or run each fire hydrant to make sure that it will operate properly during an emergency.



A tagged fire hydrant, indicating that it has been inspected and winterized.

As part of this process, each fire hydrant is tagged with a ribbon to indicate that the winterization has been completed. The color of the ribbon changes each year and, this year, the color “yellow glow” was selected.

Area residents should be advised that, as crews flush fire hydrants, there may be some discoloration of

the water. If rust-colored water is experienced, simply run the cold water tap for a few minutes to let the water clear. Please keep in mind not to wash any light colored clothing until the water is running clear.

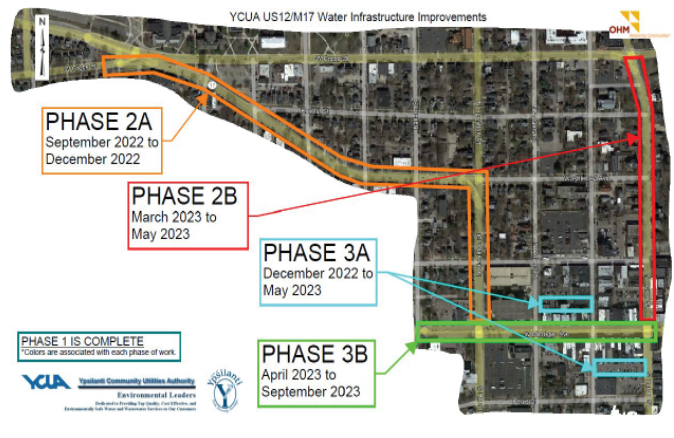
The rust coloring is caused by a natural buildup of minerals in the water system.

The fire hydrant inspection program helps ensure that all of our fire hydrants are ready in the event of an emergency. If you have any questions about the program, please contact YCUA Director of Service Operations Michael Shaffer at 484-4600 ext. 311.

Water and wastewater utilities improvements underway in the City of Ypsilanti

US-12 and M-17 Water Main Improvements Project Update

As part of our dedication to providing top quality, cost effective, and environmentally safe water and wastewater services to our customers, YCUA continues to make improvements to water and wastewater utilities in the M-17 and US-12 corridors in the City of Ypsilanti. The improvements are being constructed by DiPonio Contracting, Inc. OHM Advisors, Inc. is administering the construction contract and providing full-time, onsite observation of the work by DiPonio on behalf of YCUA.



Click image to enlarge.

This map shows the phasing of the work as of September 1st. Utility improvements started earlier this year in the vicinity of S. Hamilton St., S. Huron St., and I-94 and proceeded north along S. Huron St. to just south of Michigan Ave. (phases 1A and 1B). This phase has been completed. These sections have transitioned from YCUA to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), who will repair those portions of their pavement improvements.

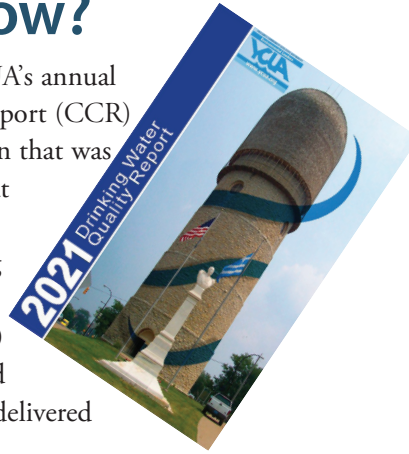
On September 6th, DiPonio Contracting will begin the phase 2 portion of the work, which will include Washtenaw Ave. going east from Summit St. to N. Hamilton and continuing south on N. Hamilton to W. Michigan Ave. This work is expected to be completed this fall.

Access to homes and businesses within the project limits will be maintained at all times. Although every effort will be made to minimize disruptions, construction will invariably result in some inconveniences.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please call YCUA Engineering Manager Scott Westover at 734-484-4600 ext. 220 or swestover@ycua.org.

Did You Know?

This year, for the first time, paper mailings of YCUA's annual Consumer Confidence Drinking Water Quality Report (CCR) were eliminated in favor of an electronic publication that was completed in June and is viewable on our website at www.ycua.org/waterreport.pdf. As environmental leaders in our community, YCUA is always looking for ways to conserve resources including paper products. However, 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 CCR delivered to your home.



"Get the Lead Out" Webpage Now Online

YCUA is taking a proactive approach to identifying lead service lines with our "Get the Lead Out" program. We









have launched a new webpage geared toward helping residents understand how lead can enter drinking water from the wearing away of materials in a building's lead plumbing and how to identify the type of service in your home. Visit www.ycua.org/qualitywater.htm for more information.

It's Time To Winterize!

The time to prepare your home for winter is before the freezing temperatures and snow arrive. Follow these tips to help prevent frozen pipes in your home:



-  Disconnect outdoor hoses and make sure hose bibs are not dripping.
-  Insulate pipes in unheated areas or seal off unheated areas.
-  Find your water meter shutoff so if a break does occur, you can turn off your water service quickly.
-  If you have an in-ground sprinkler system, contact your irrigation professional about scheduling an appointment to have your system thoroughly winterized.
-  If your home's water will be turned off for winter, there should be heat to protect the meter as well as the plumbing.
-  YCUA recommends that customers winterize their homes just in case there is a complete power outage.

Holiday closings

YCUA is closed on the following dates:

November 11 - Veterans' Day
November 24 & 25 - Thanksgiving
December 23 & 26 - Christmas
December 30 & January 2 - New Year

We wish our customers a safe and enjoyable holiday season!



Need more information?

Please visit us at
www.ycua.org
or call
734-484-4600