

THE Mainstream

From The Executive Director

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate YCUA Director Jeff Castro on his recent retirement. Mr. Castro's 36 years of dedication and accomplishments will be appreciated for many years to come. His commitment to excellence and quality is a legacy that will continue to be honored here at YCUA. I hope you will join me in wishing Mr. Castro and his family the very best in his retirement!

I would also like to take this time to thank our staff who have graciously welcomed me back to YCUA. As always, the YCUA team continues to provide the very best water and sewer services in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and unprecedented climate patterns. It is an absolute pleasure to work alongside such a great team of dedicated professionals.

As YCUA's new Director, I look forward to the opportunity to continue working closely with our staff, customers, and the community. During this transitional time, we will continue to strive each and every day to fulfill our mission statement "to provide top quality, cost effective, environmentally safe water and wastewater services to our customers." I encourage you to contact me at 484-4600 with any suggestions on how YCUA can better fulfill our mission.

- Luther Blackburn, YCUA Executive Director

YCUA's Valve Turning Exercise Program to Begin in June

This summer, YCUA Service Center crews will be conducting a conventional valve turning exercise program to maintain the quality and longevity of all water system valves. Being able to operate these valves at a moment's notice is extremely important. In an emergency, sections of a distribution system may need to be shut down without delay.

Conventional water system valve turning consists of closing, then opening each valve in a specific neighborhood.

During this process, you might experience discolored water and sediment for a short period of time.

After valve exercising has been completed in your neighborhood, it may be necessary to purge your internal plumbing. Running several

cold taps at full force for a short period will usually flush out any discolored water in the home. If the water is not clear, wait one half hour and repeat the process. Running water through an outdoor garden hose is also an effective way to flush out your service. It is also a good idea to remove and clean out

the screens on faucet aerators, which may have gathered particles during the valve exercising process.

If you experience continued abnormally low pressure and / or low flow volume throughout your house, please call the number

listed below. Valve exercising will normally take place between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. For more information, please go to: www.ycua.org or call 734-484-4600 ext. 307.



A YCUA employee conducting a valve turning exercise.

The YCUA team continues to provide the very best water and sewer services in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and unprecedented climate patterns.

- Luther Blackburn, YCUA Executive Director

YPSILANTI COMMUNITY UTILITIES AUTHORITY



www.ycua.org

YCUA to Begin Cross-Connection Control Program

This spring and summer, YCUA will be conducting residential cross-connection surveys. A cross-connection involves an arrangement of piping or appurtenances through which backflow of non-potable water could flow into the public drinking water. An example is the common garden hose submerged in a swimming pool or a bucket of detergent or other sources that would contaminate the water supply.

When the proper conditions occur, water can backflow into the drinking water through a cross-connection. The two ways that contaminated water can backflow into the drinking water are backsiphonage and backpressure.

As required under the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, 1976 PA 399 and the Michigan Plumbing Code, it is the responsibility of the water utility to implement a cross-connection program, the purpose of which is to help protect public health by preventing pollution and / or contamination of the drinking water delivered to a home or business.

Residential accounts in the YCUA service area will be surveyed by a Meter Service Technician and are done on external water spigots and irrigation systems only. A letter is sent only if there is a non-compliance issue. A follow up survey is made to ensure that non-compliance issues have been resolved.

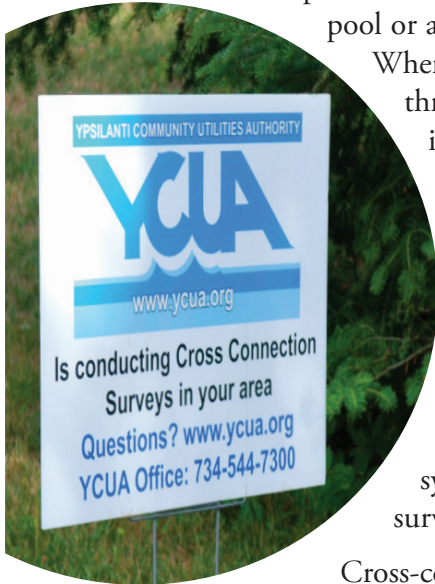


Photo by Kristina Scarcelli.

Cross-connection surveys will take place between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. For more information, please go to: www.ycua.org, click on Residential Users, and then click on Cross-Connection and Backflow Prevention. Or, call 734-484-4600 ext. 325.

The Importance of Safety Glasses

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, about 20,000 eye injuries occur in the workplace each year. Injuries on the job often require one or more missed workdays for recovery. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reports that workplace eye injuries cost an estimated \$300 million a year in lost productivity, medical treatment, and worker compensation.

Eye injuries can range from simple eye strain to severe trauma that can cause permanent damage, vision loss, and blindness. Potential risks can include flying shards of metal or glass, tools that slip or malfunction, and material such as wood splinters, crystalline silica, and splashed chemicals.

Overexposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays throughout your life could lead to dangerous eye conditions, many of which are not treatable. We all know what spending the day in the sun without protecting our skin can do. Our eyes are no different.

Shatter-resistant eye protection will have ANSI Z871 stamped into the post of the glasses or frame. These types of glasses come in clear and shaded for the sun, most with a 99.9% UV blocking ability. Also, these glasses come in a wide variety of styles to suit. Some can go over existing prescription glasses, others have magnification similar to bifocal lenses.

These products can be purchased at hardware or home improvement stores, and online. Most retailers of prescription eye wear also carry safety glasses to which they can add your prescription.



Almost everyone will encounter a situation where they should really wear eye protection.

YCUA utilizes eye protection and affected staff, contractors, and visitors must wear safety glasses on almost all work being performed and designated areas on the plant site.

At some point in our lives, most of us are reminded that our eyes are the only pair we have. That message remains unchanged.

US-12 and M-17 Water Main Improvements Update

The project will replace existing old and mostly undersized water mains along Washtenaw Avenue between West Cross Street and Hamilton Street, Hamilton Street between Washtenaw Avenue and I-94, Huron Street between I-94 and West Cross Street, and Michigan Avenue between Huron Street and Hamilton Street. The water supply system improvements will be constructed in advance of road and drainage improvements being implemented by the Michigan Department of Transportation. In addition to replacement of the water mains, a number of the existing water services within the project limits have been identified as needing to be replaced to satisfy the lead and copper rule mandated by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). A limited amount of repairs to the sanitary sewer system within the corridor will also be completed during the project. The project will be completed over the course of the next two years with work starting in the vicinity of South Hamilton Street, South Huron Street, and I-94 and proceeding northerly from there. Following completion of YCUA's utility improvements, the roads will be resurfaced/repared by the Michigan Department of Transportation under a separate construction contract. The total project cost is estimated at \$11,900,000.



A drone view looking southwest at the improvements made to US-12 and M-17 in Ypsilanti Township. For reference: I-94 is in the top left corner of the photo. Image courtesy of Washtenaw County Road Commission.

An informational video will be issued soon. The video will also be provided to both the City of Ypsilanti Department of Public Services and the Downtown Development Authority. A public meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. on February 23, 2022 at the Freighthouse in Depot Town (100 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan, 48198). Staff from YCUA, OHM, and DiPonio Contracting, Inc., were present to discuss the project and answer questions. If you have any questions regarding this project please contact YCUA Engineering Manager Scott Westover at 734-484-4600 extension 220 or swestover@ycua.org.

YCUA Welcomes New Executive Director

On November 15, 2021, Luther Blackburn assumed the position of Executive Director for YCUA. Mr. Blackburn is responsible for supervising the administration of the Authority, exercising supervision directly or indirectly of all Authority employees, and reporting to the YCUA Board of Commissioners. The YCUA Executive Director operates under the broad policy guidelines set forth by the Board.

Mr. Blackburn brings nearly 25 years of experience to the position. Mostly recently, he served as Wastewater Operations Manager at Great Lakes Water Authority for over four years. Previously, he held the position of Director of Wastewater / Compliance at YCUA from 2014 through 2017. Prior to this, he served as a Laboratory / Industrial Surveillance Supervisor and a Wastewater Treatment Foreman at YCUA. He has also served as a Environmental Science Instructor at Washtenaw Community College.



Mr. Blackburn holds a Bachelor of Science in Technology Management from Eastern Michigan University and a Master of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Michigan - Dearborn.

Mr. Blackburn is an experienced utility manager with proficiency in plant operations, regulatory compliance, and administration. He brings to YCUA diverse understanding of water resource management gained through education, employment, and community involvement.

In winter, I plot and plan. In spring, I move.

- Henry Rollins

April is Safe Digging Month

April is Safe Digging Month in Michigan. Each year, Michigan's underground utility infrastructure is jeopardized by unintentional damage caused by those who fail to call before they dig.

Save time and money by calling 811, the national Call Before You Dig toll-free number, or MISS DIG System, Inc., Michigan's one-call excavation safety and utility damage prevention company, at 800-482-7171. Call at least three business days in advance of any digging project. By making this call, residents can have underground lines located to avoid the potential for undesired consequences such as service interruption, damage to the environment, personal injury, and even death.

It is also important to practice safe digging by respecting the lines marked by the MISS DIG crews and maintaining visual definition of the lines through the course of the excavation.

MISS DIG System, Inc. offers free assistance with its more than 900 participating members who will stake underground utility lines and provide overhead electric line assistance prior to digging.



Need more information?

Please visit us at

www.ycua.org

or call

734-484-4600








Did You Know?

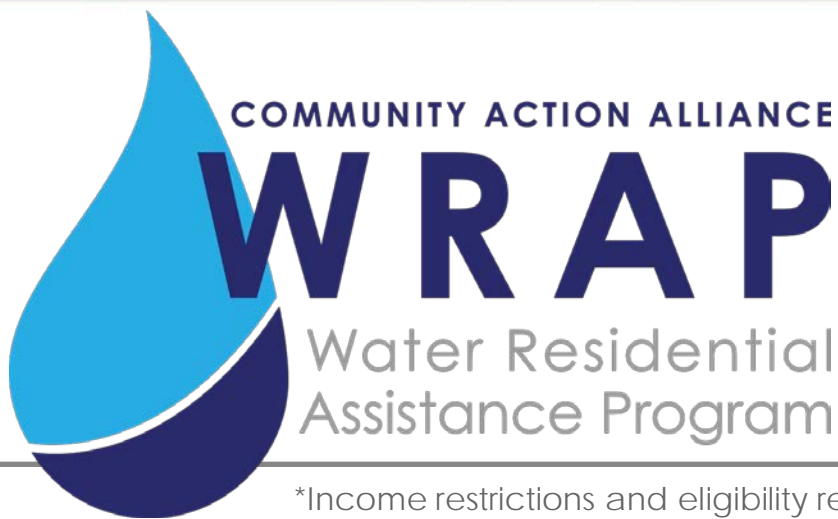
YCUA's annual Consumer Confidence Drinking Water Quality Report will be published soon. After June 1, 2022, the new report will be viewable on our website at www.ycua.org/waterreport.pdf. Please call us at 734-484-4600 ext. 107 if you are unable to access the Internet and wish to continue having a paper copy of the report delivered to your home.



Water-Wise Tips For Your Spring Cleanup

Storm drains in our streets and yards empty directly into our lakes and streams. Fertilizer on our driveways and sidewalks washes directly to our lakes and streams, polluting the water. Here are some simple lawn care tips for a great looking lawn that will also help protect our environment:

-  Don't pour your unwanted chemicals on the ground or down sinks. Instead, take them to a hazardous waste collection center.
-  It's important to use chemical fertilizers, weed killers, and fungicides only as directed. Do not apply these products if rain is expected or near surface waters.
-  Fertilizer left on sidewalks and driveways easily washes into storm drains. Sweep it back onto the lawn.
-  Don't hose your lawn clippings away - sweep them up instead.
-  Don't fertilize until three weeks after green up in the spring.
-  Consider a fertilizer spreader with a directional control that avoids non-lawn areas.
-  Instead of spreading weed killer over your entire lawn, use a pre-mixed spot treatment, directed at the root of the problem.



*Income restrictions and eligibility requirements apply.

Program Benefits:



Assistance up to \$1,000 per household per year. \$25 monthly bill credit + help with arrears.



Home water audit for households above 120% of average usage



Home repairs up to \$1,000 per household to fix minor plumbing issues leading to high usage



Water saving kits and consumer training classes



Supportive WRAP-Around Services

WRAP Participant Qualifications:

- ✓ Have income at or below 150% of poverty threshold
- ✓ Provide proof of residency & income
- ✓ Provide renter's proof of responsibility for water on lease
- ✓ Stay current on monthly bill payment



WRAP funding is made possible by the Great Lakes Water Authority.

Call 313.386.WRAP (9727)

or visit www.waynemetro.org/wrap



Wayne Metropolitan
Community Action Agency
Established 1971



Community Action Alliance WRAP Program

Community Action Alliance will deliver WRAP through our Empowerment Pathway Model—a custom designed service plan to help residential customers in the Great Lakes Water Authority regions to access bill assistance, water conservation measures, and navigate resources and WRAP-around supports on a pathway toward self-sufficiency.

Household Income eligibility for the WRAP is 150% of poverty:

Household Members	Household Income	Household Members	Household Income
1	\$17,805	5	\$42,660
2	\$24,030	6	\$48,870
3	\$30,240	7	\$55,095
4	\$36,450	8	\$61,335



The WRAP's mission is to administer the distribution of WRAP funding to the eligible, low-income customers of the GLWA with a vision to create a transformative water utility assistance program focusing on bill assistance, conservation and self-sufficiency initiatives.

Call 313.386.WRAP (9727)

or visit www.waynemetro.org/wrap





LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLD WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

LIHWAP BENEFITS:



UP TO \$650
in direct payment
assistance for household
accounts in arrears or
disconnect status



**Assistance with
reconnection fees when
services have been
disconnected**

*A LIHWAP payment will
guarantee service for at least 90
days after receipt of payment.*

CLIENT ELIGIBILITY:

Qualified account holders must:



**Be a
residential
account**



**Be in arrears or
disconnect
status**

Be under 150% Federal Poverty Limit
and/or actively receiving Temporary
Assistance for Needy Families (TANF),
Food Assistance Program/Supplemental
Nutrition Assistance Program (FAP/SNAP),
State Emergency Relief (SER), Social
Security Supplemental Income (SSI)



*Your municipality must opt in
the program to qualify*

150% Federal Poverty Chart (Annually)

Number of Household Members	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Income Limit (\$)	20,385	27,465	34,545	41,625	48,705	55,785	62,865	69,945	74,665	74,665



CALL 313-388-9799



or scan this code to apply today!

www.WayneMetro.org/Programs

Community Trees Pilot Program

TREE SURVEY



**USE THE QR
CODE FOR
YOUR
COMMUNITY**



Find out more and take it online at:
www.washtenawcd.org/forestry-pilot