

YPSILANTI COMMUNITY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

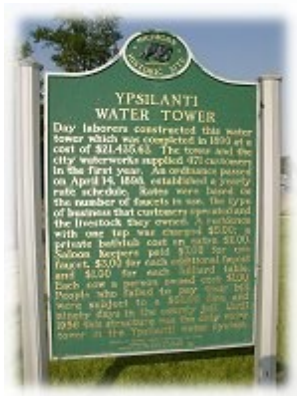
Environmental Leaders



The Mainstream

Historic Stone Water Tower Tours

Ypsilanti's Bicentennial celebration of 200 years of history was celebrated on August 19, 2023. The day-long event included historical tributes, family fun, live music and entertainment and tours of the historic Stone Water Tower which has been considered a symbol of Ypsilanti for many years.



YCUA opened the water tower to the public on the afternoon of August 19th. Over 350 visitors were excited for the opportunity to enter the stone tower built in 1889 at a cost of \$21,368 and climb the 139 steps to the catwalk at the top for scenic views of the city and the campus of Eastern Michigan University.

"The views from the catwalk are always the most talked about," said Sean Knapp, Director of Service Operations at YCUA. "Heard stories from residents that visited the tower 30 years ago during the Heritage Festival. It's amazing to hear from our residents when they learn that the tower is still in service."

Will YCUA open the tower up for more tours in the future? "We absolutely would love to share it with our community," Knapp said. "We are currently trying to figure out what that looks like, especially after the success of the bicentennial tour."

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>.



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MWEA PFAS Seminar



YCUA's Director of Wastewater Operations/Compliance Sreedhar Mullapudi along with Theo VanAken (Holland BPW) and Tim Sikma (City of Wixom DPW) participated in a panel discussion "PFAS Issues and Impact on Wastewater Treatment Plants" at the PFAS Seminar hosted by the Michigan Water Environment Association (MWEA) on August 24, 2023, in East Lansing.

MWEA hosted the PFAS Seminar to continue the education on PFAS including regulation, source identification and reduction, analysis, treatment and disposal.

PFAS are synthetic chemicals that can repel water, oil, and stains, making them useful for many products and industries. PFAS are also called "forever chemicals" because they don't break down easily in the environment or the human body and can accu-

mulate over time. PFAS have been detected in the blood of most Americans, as well as in drinking water, food, soil, and wildlife, raising health concerns.

YCUA's most recent National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit was issued in the Fall of 2022 with new monitoring requirements for PFAS compounds. Since 2018, Mr. Mullapudi has been leading YCUA's Industrial Pretreatment Program to work with various point source dischargers in identifying and reducing the discharge of PFAS compounds into our system. YCUA anticipates passing its first-ever sewer use ordinance limits for PFAS compounds in 2024. Establishing sewer use ordinance limits for PFAS compounds will provide YCUA with the legal authority to enforce and hold point source discharges liable for adversely affecting our wastewater treatment plant.

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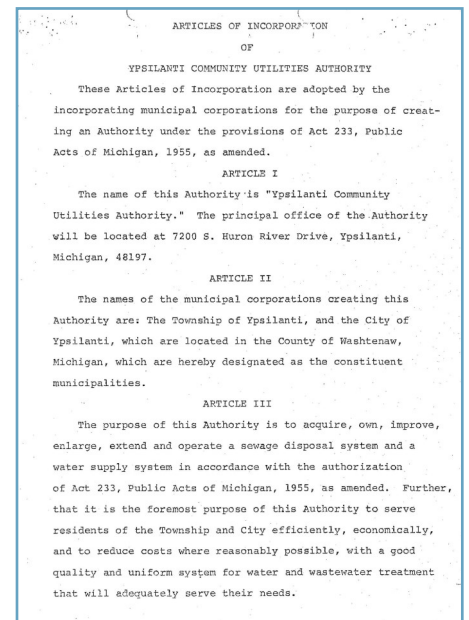
Celebrating fifty years of teamwork, growth, dedication, and success with both the City and Township!

Looking forward to the next fifty years providing top quality, cost effective, environmentally safe water and wastewater services to our residential and community customers!

From our Executive Director

Happy New Year to the YCUA Team and our community! This year is especially noteworthy as it will mark the 50th anniversary of our Authority. I cannot help but reflect on the history, many achievements, and challenges that have occurred over this period. I find it inspiring that our anniversary is so closely tied to the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. The Clean Water Act was promulgated in the backdrop as the City and Township came together to officially form our great utility on September 3, 1974.

We will be dedicating the fall issue of the Mainstream to YCUA's history and many achievements over the past 50 years. YCUA will be planning various activities to commemorate our anniversary such as hosting tours of our historic Stone Water Tower and Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. 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. I truly believe the reason YCUA is such a special place and a leading utility in our industry is the result of the dedication of our team members. Therefore, I want to thank all of our current and previous team members and their families for the hard work, dedication, and sacrifices which enable us to provide to provide top quality, cost effective, and environmentally safe water and wastewater services to our customers.



Pictured: YCUA Articles of Incorporation, Dated 9-3-1974

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Tours YCUA

Ypsilanti Communitality Utilities Authority (YCUA) hosted the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Michael Regan, Representative Debbie Dingell, and Michigan Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Director Phillip Roos along with Ypsilanti Mayor Nicole Brown and Ypsilanti Township Supervisor Brenda Stumbo for a tour of our wastewater treatment facilities including the Headworks Odor Control building and the Ultraviolet Disinfection building on October 10, 2023.

Representative Dingell shared her passion working with local communities and the federal government to ensure clean and safe drinking water, to make vital infrastructure improvements, to getting the lead out of pipes, and to making sure families can afford water.



Pictured (left to right): YCUA Director of Wastewater Operations/Compliance Sreedhar Mullapudi, YCUA Executive Director Luther Blackburn, EPA Region 5 Administrator Debra Shore, EGLE Director Phillip Roos, EPA Administrator Michael Regan, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, City of Ypsilanti Mayor Nicole Brown and YCUA Director of Service Operations Sean Knapp. Missing from photo: Ypsilanti Township Supervisor Brenda Stumbo.

What Material is Your Water Service Line Made Of?

The State of Michigan's 2018 revision to the lead and copper provisions of the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, 1976 PA 399, requires YCUA to develop and maintain a complete distribution system materials inventory which includes service line materials on both public and private property. This inventory will support effective asset management planning, lead service line replacement efforts, and notifications of those served by a lead service line.



YCUA currently has approximately 2,500 water service lines requiring verification of water service pipe materials. We need your help collecting data for these unidentified service lines. Please find instructions on how to identify the interior portion of your service line material at the following link: [Service-Lines-and-Plumbing-Fixtures.pdf \(ycua.org\)](#). Once identified, there are multiple ways to report your findings that are listed below:

- E-mail results to esizemore@ycua.org
- Text a picture to 734-323-1655, include your address with your picture.
- Scan the QR Code above from your mobile device to access the YCUA Residential Water Service Line Data Collection form. The survey can also be completed at the following link: [YCUA Residential Water Service Line Data Collection \(arcgis.com\)](#).

YCUA greatly appreciates your cooperation and assistance with this matter. If you have any questions or concerns please contact our Water Systems Supervisor, Eric Sizemore, at (734) 484-4600 ext. 312.

Public Meetings

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

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

Upcoming meeting dates:

- March 27, 2024
- April 24, 2024
- May 22, 2024
- June 26, 2024
- July 24, 2024
- August 28, 2024
- September 25, 2024
- October 23, 2024
- November 20, 2024
- December 18, 2024

2023 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 www.ycua.org to view the current CCR.

Time Capsule

YCUA joined with Ypsilanti Bicentennial Commission to celebrate Ypsilanti's Bicentennial and bury a new time capsule at the base of the historic Ypsilanti Water Tower on November 20, 2023. Earlier this year, Ypsilanti opened the time capsule buried in 1973. The 2023 time capsule will be opened in 2073!



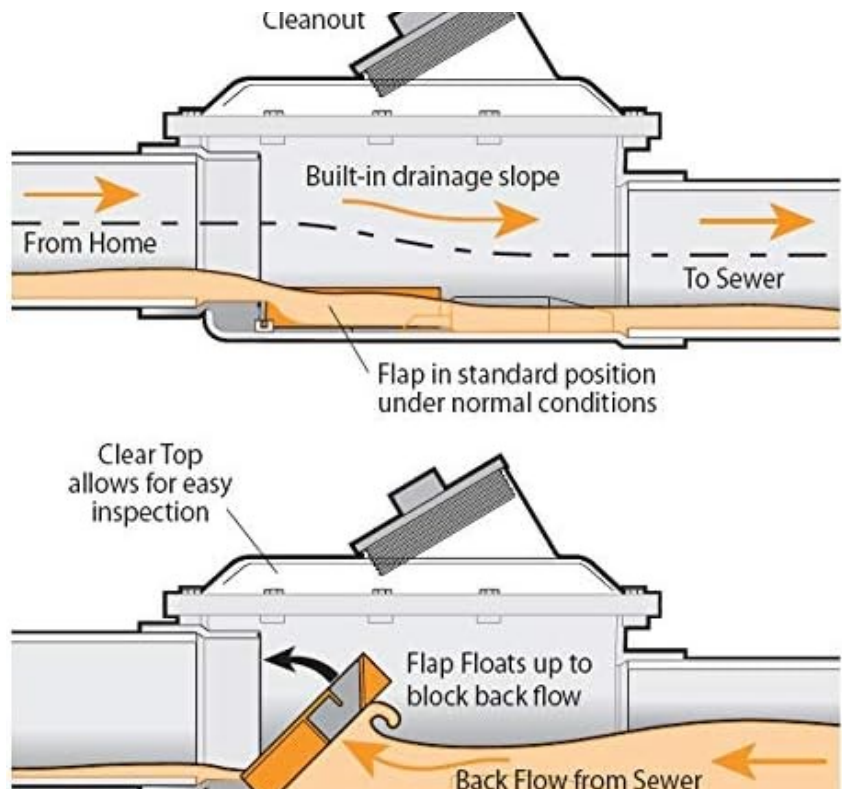
Ways to Reduce the Threat of Sewage Backups

Sewage backups are unpleasant, potentially hazardous to your health, and difficult and expensive to clean up. All plumbing carries risk of a sewage backup, but homes in places that commonly flood, get heavy rain, or are in older neighborhoods are particularly prone to backups. You'll know a sewage backup has occurred if water or waste is coming up through floor drains in the basement (if you have one) or sink drains.

Although they may not know it, homeowners are responsible for maintaining the sewer pipe (sanitary service lead) that runs between the municipal sanitary sewer main (usually under the street) and their houses. Blockages are often the result of shrubs and tree roots, which can cause extensive damage and cracking when they seep into the joints of the pipeline. One way to prevent tree root damage is to replace your line and tap with new plastic pipe. Homeowners can contact a qualified plumber to clean and televise their service lead to locate problem areas.

Paper products are another common cause of sewer lead backups. Paper towels, facial tissue, diapers, "flushable" wipes, and feminine products can cause many problems in a property owner's lateral because they do not deteriorate as quickly as toilet paper does.

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Pictured: Backflow Valve

Ways to Reduce the Threat of Sewage Backup

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FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease) is another concern. Cooking oil should be poured into a heat-resistant container and disposed of properly after it cools off, not poured into sink drains. If discarded in a sink, oils will solidify, causing the line to constrict and eventually clog.

In addition to problems that can occur in your home's service lead, in most instances, municipal wastewater utilities are not responsible for sewer main backups that occur as a result of an "Act of God" such as extreme rain or snow melt events. In 2001, the State of Michigan adopted Public Act 222, known as the Sewage Event Claims Act. It provides that municipalities are not liable for sewer backup damages unless the backup is caused by a defect in the public sewer system of which the municipality was aware but failed to correct in a reasonable amount of time.

You can reduce the likelihood of sewer backflows entering your home by having a plumber install a backwater prevention valve, which is a check valve

"Municipalities are not liable for sewer backup damage unless the backup is caused by a defect in the public sewer system which the municipality was aware but failed to correct"


installed into a sewer line (or sometimes into a drain line). A properly installed and maintained backwater valve allows sewage to go out, but not to come back in.

In general, sewer backups are not covered under standard home insurance policies. Specific coverage for sewage backups should be added to your home insurance policy in the form of a sewage backup rider.

Public Act 222 also establishes a procedure for a property owner to follow when making a claim for sewer backup damages. If a backup occurs at your home, contact YCUA, 24 hours a day, at 734-484-4600, and select the "Service Center" option on the phone menu. YCUA will send staff to your home to investigate and provide you with a sewer backup claim form. If you believe the backup is YCUA's responsibility, complete and file the claim form with YCUA within 45 days from when the backup is discovered. Claim forms are also available by calling YCUA or by going online to YCUA's website at www.ycua.org.

Clean up costs and all damages caused by a sewer backup are the responsibility of the homeowner unless YCUA is liable under Public Act 222. Therefore, YCUA recommends that all homeowners (and renters) have insurance that includes coverage for property damage caused by a sewer backup and that you contact YCUA and your insurance company immediately in the event of a sewer backup in your home or leased space. Take before and after photos of the affected areas and itemize any property losses. Save all receipts related to repairs, cleaning, or damages.

Responding quickly is critical to preventing further damage and health risks from a sewage backup.



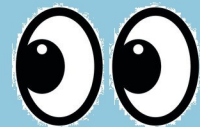
Please visit us at
[Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority \(ycua.org\)](http://Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (ycua.org))
or
call 734-484-4600

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

March 29: Good Friday
May 27: Memorial Day
July 4: Independence Day
September 2: Labor Day

Our Website

Will be launching soon!
Keep your eyes open, next



month as we are launching our new website! We've been hard at work building our new website and look forward to sharing it with our customers. Our new website will make it quicker and easier to pay your bill, request a tour, sign up for our emergency notification system, or report a problem. Any comments on our new webpage can be emailed to webmaster@ycua.org.

Ypsilanti Community Utilities
Authority

50th Anniversary

The Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YCUA) was formed in 1974 when the Charter Township of Ypsilanti and the City of Ypsilanti combined their respective water departments. YCUA provides water and/or wastewater services to portions of eastern Washtenaw County and western Wayne County. Join us in celebrating fifty years, 1974-2024, of our mission "Dedicated to providing top quality, cost effective, environmentally safe water and wastewater services to our customers."

The Scoop on Clean Water!

Explore the power a wastewater treatment facility has to return clean water to our environment. A wastewater treatment plant tour is an opportunity to remind the public how vital wastewater services are to our economy, the environment, and public health. Guests not only see the power we have to return clean water to the environment, they are also surprised by the vast amount of equipment—pumps, tanks, blowers, and more—that it takes to treat wastewater!

YCUA offers guided tours of our wastewater treatment plant. Tour participants must be at least 10 years old or in the fifth grade. Tours of the plant can be arranged by completing the [Tour Request Form \(ycua.org\)](https://ycua.org/tour-request-form). A typical plant tour lasts 1-2 hours.



Ypsilanti Community Utilities
Authority

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PLEASE
PLACE
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HERE

To:

