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Community News

YCUA Provides Update on City Water Services

Ypsilanti, MI, February 2, 2016: As the nation is captivated by the Flint Water Crisis, residents may naturally have questions about the safety of their own homes and businesses. Ypsilanti's water services are provided by Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YCUA), which uses Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) as a water source.

Below is a statement from Scott Westover, YCUA Engineering Manager, regarding the status of water services in Ypsilanti:

YCUA replaced the water mains and all non-copper water services as part of the City's local streets reconstruction program between 2001 and 2005. The same approach has been utilized on non-local roads over the past 15 to 20 years as well, streets such as Grove, Lowell, and most recently Michigan Avenue last summer.

It needs to be noted that water service replacement work by YCUA is limited to the length of pipe between the water main and the shutoff valve at the property line (typically about a foot towards the building from the edge of the sidewalk). Our records don't have much, if any, information indicating what the pipe material is on the property owner's side of the shutoff valve. However, if non-copper piping was observed during the water main replacement projects, the property owner was notified in writing. Those notification letters included language recommending the property owner consider replacing the service pipe between the shutoff and their building.

In the late 1990s, YCUA created a spreadsheet of all known lead water service piping between the water main and the shutoff valve. At that time, there were approximately 250 lead water services in the City. We are currently double-checking our records to determine how many of those were replaced since the spreadsheet was created, but a quick review of the list leads me to believe there are somewhere in the neighborhood of 3 dozen lead service pipes remaining. These pipes are located under non-local roads that haven't been reconstructed, such as Washtenaw, Cornell, and Hamilton south of Washtenaw.

Finally, please keep in mind that YCUA's water source is DWSD, who does a very good job treating drinking water. DWSD adds anti-corrosive agents as part of their treatment process to minimize the risk of lead and copper leaching from the pipes into the water. YCUA will be issuing a press release in the near future with more information about this issue. In the meantime, don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

If you have additional questions about YCUA's services, contact them at (734) 484-4600 ext 220. If you have concerns about your property's pipes, we recommend that you have them evaluated by a licensed professional. If you have concerns as a renter, we recommend that you contact your landlord for service history and updates.
