

Northrop Grumman Foundation Weightless Flights of Discovery Program. Williams is one of 30 teachers selected for the program that will take off from near Dulles Airport at 10 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 2.

by Zero G Corporation, parabolic arcs are performed to create a weightless environment that al-

explained. "I don't think I will as long as I follow the directions they gave me at the workshop. We learned their students in math and

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Congressman Announces Nearly \$2 Million for Yuma Sewer

Lisa Watson McCarty
Publisher

Monday's announcement at the Yuma Ruritan Club was a day that the late Robert Wininger and the late Ivan Taylor would have reveled in.

The reason - this was the day that Ninth District Congressman Rick Boucher was coming to Yuma to announce the award of \$1.963 million in federal funds to construct the long-awaited and long-overdue sewer project in the community.

Both Wininger and Taylor worked tirelessly on their dream, separately. Wininger, who had served terms on the Scott County Board of Supervisors and State Water Control Board, never failed to mention the dire need of sewer in the Yuma community at

county meetings while Taylor helped gather the necessary signatures from local residents wanting to sign up for the service.

Monday's event at the Yuma Ruritan Club was a celebration for local residents who want their community to grow and keep their children safe at Yuma Elementary School.

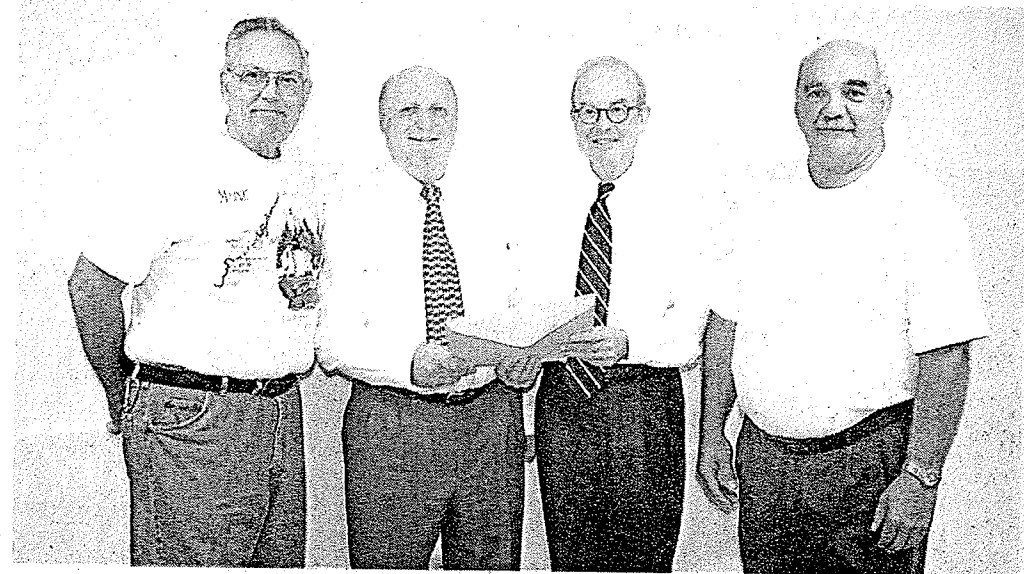
"I am pleased to return to Yuma today to announce a major provision of federal stimulus funding which will provide public wastewater services for the first time to the residents of Yuma," Boucher explained. "At my request, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, through its Rural Development Agency, is providing a total of \$1.963 million to Scott County to construct a new public wastewater system in the Yuma community."

The federal funds are the result of the economic Recovery Act approved by Congress and signed into law by President Obama earlier this year. The Ninth Congressional District has received more than \$400 million in Recovery Act funds this year.

Last month, PSA officials were urging local property owners to sign easements to allow the project to continue. To-date about one-third of 60-plus agreements have been complete and officials plan to go door-to-door if necessary to secure all the signatures.

Boucher said the new system will help revive the local economy and give them a solid foundation for long-term economic growth.

"Today's announcement of nearly \$2 million in federal funds will enable the



Ninth District Congressman Rick Boucher (right center) was welcomed with open arms by residents in the Yuma community during Monday's announcement of \$1.963 million in federal stimulus funds for the long-awaited Yuma Sewer Project. He is joined by Edsel Bellamy, Scott County Public Service Authority Executive Director Dan Danko and First District Supervisor Paul Fields.

construction of a new wastewater system to serve more than 100 residents and a school in the

Yuma community," he added. "Currently these residents rely on private septic systems, many of

which are failing posing potential health risks, and

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the Yuma School relies on a failing wastewater treatment plant."

The Scott County PSA will install more than 8.5 miles of wastewater lines as well as three wastewater lift stations. Lines will be installed along Route 614 (Yuma Road) in the community extending to the Yuma Elementary School. The school's current failing wastewater treatment plant will be replaced by the new wastewater system.

"The availability of the new, safe and reliable wastewater services will improve the quality of life in the Yuma community as well as enable future residential growth in the area," he concluded. "Today's announcement represents a significant step in our efforts to expand Southwest Virginia's wastewater infrastructure."

The nearly \$3.1 million project is broken down into three phases. Phase 1A, which goes from the current ending of sewer just outside Weber City on the Old Yuma Road to Yuma Elementary School, is the most expensive portion of the project.

But it is a crucial part that has to be done before the other two components can be started. Phase 1B is a loop that starts at Yuma Tire and follows the roadway where it intersects with Yuma Road. Phase 2, the easiest to construct portion of the

project, travels from the school to near the top of the hill on Yuma Road.

County PSA Director Dan Danko noted the majority of the funding is grant-based with a small loan of \$479,500, based on 2.45 interest over 40 years, coming from USDA Rural Development.

Rural Development is providing \$1.4 million in grant funds for the plan along with grant funds from the General Assembly of \$270,000, a Southern Rivers grant of \$534,000 and other small sources to complete the funding picture of \$3.092 million.

"This ratio of loan-to-grant funds is the best that I have seen for a project like this," Boucher added.

Boucher noted that he will be back in the area in about two weeks to formally open the computer labs at the Ruritan Building, courtesy of a new broadband initiative by Scott County Telephone Cooperative.

First District Supervisor Paul Fields stated it was an honor to have the congressman in his district, especially when he was bringing money.

"This is one of the greatest days for Yuma because the sewer system will enhance our community and allow others to build on formerly unsuitable sites," Fields said.

Danko thanked the PSA board for their patience and willingness to con-

tinue the project.

"We have a good relationship with Rural Development and they are instrumental in helping you get what you need done," he added.

Edsel Bellamy, a former PSA Board Member, has been helping collect signed easements from his friends and neighbors in the community. He suggested that both Winger and Taylor were smiling from ear-to-ear as they watched Monday's event.

"I know Ivan would be tickled to death to know what was happening today," Bellamy said. "I'm sure he's watching us from above."



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