



## OWASA CONTINUES TO MEET DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

Regular testing shows that OWASA tap water continues to meet all standards under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

In 2005, OWASA's water quality testing program included more than 55,000 analyses for more than 100 contaminants including lead, bacteria, etc.

"We are committed to making sure that our water is safe to drink, and our test results are evidence of that. We encourage anyone with a question to call us," said Rachel Monschein, Laboratory Supervisor at OWASA's Jones Ferry Road Water Treatment Plant.

### Annual Water Quality Report Cards

Each spring, OWASA publishes a Water Quality Report Card regarding water testing, treatment, water quality and characteristics, the reservoirs that supply water for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro community and related matters. The Water Quality Report Card for the 2005 calendar year was mailed to OWASA customers in June 2006, and copies are



**For homes and other buildings with plumbing systems installed before 1987, we will be glad to test an OWASA water sample for the presence of lead.**

available for mailing to any customer on request.

The Water Quality Report Card is posted in the Water System section of the OWASA Website, [www.owasa.org](http://www.owasa.org). A Spanish translation of the Report Card is also available on our Website and in paper form.

### Testing for lead

As noted in the Water Quality Report

Card, OWASA tested for lead in water samples from 30 older homes from July through September, 2005. All of the test results were below the detectable level of 3 parts per billion. One part per billion corresponds to 1 penny in \$10 million. The Federal standard for lead in drinking water is a maximum of 15 parts per billion.

The testing for lead is required because of the potential for lead to be "leached"

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## PLEASE GIVE TO THE TASTE OF HOPE CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM -- IT COSTS LESS THAN \$12 PER YEAR



PLEASE HELP FAMILIES IN NEED THROUGH THE A TASTE OF HOPE PROGRAM! WHEN YOU SIGN UP AS A DONOR, YOUR MONTHLY OWASA BILL WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY ROUNDED UP TO THE NEAREST DOLLAR AND THE ADDED AMOUNT WILL BE USED TO HELP PAY WATER AND SEWER BILLS FOR PEOPLE IN NEED. TO SIGN UP OR GET MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL US AT 537-4343; VISIT OUR WEBSITE, [WWW.OWASA.ORG](http://WWW.OWASA.ORG); OR SEND E-MAIL TO [WEBMASTER@OWASA.ORG](mailto:WEBMASTER@OWASA.ORG).

Este boletín informativo contiene información sobre los servicios de agua y alcantarillado de OWASA. Para obtener una traducción, por favor llame al 537-4221, mande un correo electrónico a [webmaster@owasa.org](mailto:webmaster@owasa.org), o visite la página de Internet [www.owasa.org](http://www.owasa.org). ¡Muchas gracias!

# IMPROVEMENTS AT THE MASON FARM WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT ARE 85% COMPLETE

In May, 2004, the Pizzagalli Construction Company began a \$50 million, 3-year upgrade and expansion project at our Mason Farm Wastewater Treatment Plant on the southeast side of Chapel Hill.

About 85% of the work is done and the project is on schedule for comple-

tion by the fall of 2007.

The improvements will:

- ◆ Enhance the quality of treated water that we discharge to Morgan Creek, and enable the future use of treated or "reclaimed" water for non-drinking purposes.

- ◆ Enclose major sources of odor at the plant.

- ◆ Expand treatment capacity from 12 to 14.5 million gallons per day.

- ◆ Make the plant more reliable by adding a second back-up power generator.

## OWASA MEETS WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

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or released into tap water from plumbing systems built before 1987. In that year, a ban on use of lead solder, pipes, etc. in installation of plumbing systems went into effect.

In July 2006, OWASA also did an annual test for lead in treated water from the Jones Ferry Road Water Treatment Plant. The test result then was below the detectable level, as in previous years.

In the OWASA water system, all known lead fittings and pipes have been abandoned or removed.

For customers who want to have their tap water tested for lead, OWASA provides a bottle and instructions for getting a water sample to be brought to the OWASA offices at 400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro.

### Water quality factors in the OWASA system

The quality of OWASA drinking water reflects:

- ◆ The quality of water in University Lake and the Cane Creek Reservoir, which are protected by local governments' stringent limits on development. The watersheds have rural and low intensity residential land uses, very few businesses, and no industry or wastewater treatment plants. Since 1997, OWASA has also acquired ownership or conservation easements on 1,004 acres in the Cane Creek watershed to help protect water quality.
- ◆ Treatment, operation and management processes at the Jones Ferry Road Water Treatment Plant. OWASA's treatment plant and staff received a national award from the

Partnership for Safe Drinking Water in June, 2005.

- ◆ Careful monitoring and testing of water by Laboratory staff, who work closely with treatment plant operators.

OWASA does more than 55,000 water quality tests each year as noted above. (Some specialized tests are done by an outside laboratory approved by the State.)

### Questions or comments?

OWASA customers who have questions about water quality or want to have the tap water tested at their homes, businesses, etc. are invited to call Rachel Monschein, our Water Treatment Plant Laboratory Supervisor, at 537-4227 or by e-mail to [rmonschein@owasa.org](mailto:rmonschein@owasa.org).

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## MOST WATER RATES INCREASED 6% ON OCTOBER 1; SEWER RATES INCREASED 6.25%

On October 1, most of our water rates increased 6% and sewer charges increased 6.25%. The increases are needed primarily for improvements at the Mason Farm Wastewater Treatment Plant (please see article above); capital projects such as replacement and renovation of aging water and sewer pipes; and increased prices for

treatment chemicals, energy and copper and iron pipe.

For a typical residential customer who uses 6,000 gallons of water per month over a full year, the average water and sewer bill will increase \$3.68 or 6.1%, from \$59.88 to \$63.56 per month. Under OWASA's seasonal

water conservation rate structure, monthly bills vary by time of year. A lower, "off-peak" water rate of \$2.90 per 1,000 gallons of water use will be in effect from October 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007. The "peak" seasonal water conservation rate in effect from May 1, 2007 through September 30, 2007 will be \$5.51 per 1,000 gallons.

