



COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING ON APRIL 27TH

Dear OWASA Customer:

On behalf of the OWASA Board of Directors and staff, I cordially invite you to our 2006 Community Outreach Meeting on Thursday, April 27th at 7:00 pm in the Chapel Hill Town Hall.

At the outreach meeting, we will talk with you about:

- ◆ Who we are and what we do,
- ◆ Where we get our water, and
- ◆ Our programs to ensure adequate future water supplies and system capacities, including:

- Plans for water reuse, a very important part of our future;
- The expanded Stone Quarry Reservoir;
- Water conservation initiatives; and
- The Mason Farm Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade now underway.

Please bring your questions and comments. We want to hear from you. We need your feedback.

Sincerely,

Michael A. (Mac) Clarke
Chair, OWASA Board of Directors

YOU'RE INVITED!

Location: Council Chambers,
Chapel Hill Town Hall, 405 Martin
Luther King Jr.
Boulevard.

Time: 7:00 PM

**Night bus service to and from
Town Hall is available on
various routes.**

**Live telecast: cable channel 18 in
Chapel Hill and Carrboro**

OWASA begins wastewater filtration

Right:
One of
the new
filters
at our
Mason
Farm
Waste-
water
Treat-
ment
Plant.



This winter, the Pizzagalli Construction Company, our contractor for improvements underway at the Mason Farm Wastewater Treatment Plant, completed the first phase of the project. The completed work includes:

- ◆ Construction of a new filtration and disinfection facility. For the first time, we are now filtering our treated wastewater and using ultraviolet (UV) light instead

of chlorine for disinfection before we release water to Morgan Creek, which flows to Jordan Lake.

- ◆ Installation of new cover structures on our solids digesters, which were leaking foul air and were a major odor source. (Additional odor control work will be completed by the summer of 2007.)

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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, o visite la página de Internet www.owasa.org.



University Lake

WATER WATCH UPDATE



The dam at University Lake (early March)

As of early March, our Cane Creek Reservoir and University Lake were 92% full, up from 56% in mid-November.

The rise in our lake levels reflects wet weather and higher water flows in the creeks and streams that feed the lakes.

Our water supply outlook for 2006 therefore appears to be favorable, taking into account OWASA customers' water use patterns in recent years.

However, we will continue to monitor our lake levels, daily demand, rainfall and streamflows into our lakes.

Dry weather and/or high water demand in the coming year could lead to additional water use restrictions to ensure that we will have adequate water in 2007.

The year-round conservation requirements adopted in 2003 remain in effect

for OWASA customers.

Please visit the conservation section on our Website, www.owasa.org, for more information and/or contact us at 968-4421 or webmaster@owasa.org if you have any questions or comments.

We will be glad to mail you our water conservation brochure including the year-round standards.

WATER CONSERVATION: *part of our community's SUSTAINABLE quality of life.*

Mason Farm Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements include odor control, filtration and disinfection with ultraviolet light to enhance water quality

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- ◆ Adding a second back-up power generator with automated controls.

As a result of these improvements:

- √ We will be able to meet State standards for reuse of treated wastewater for non-drinking purposes starting possibly in 2008. OWASA and the University are planning a reuse system that will initially serve chiller plants in the southern campus area.
- √ UV disinfection provides safer and more effective disinfection than the past use of chlorine in wastewater treatment. When we used chlorine, it was necessary to add another chemical (sodium bisulfite) to take any remaining chlorine out of the treated water before returning it to the creek.

- √ The new filters are also designed to reduce the levels of nitrogen in our treated wastewater in the future. Like phosphorus, nitrogen is a nutrient that encourages the growth of algae in lakes. OWASA is required to carefully limit the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus in treated wastewater.

The improvements at the Mason Farm plant began in April, 2004. Additional improvements to be included by the summer of 2007 include a new pump station inside the plant, adding a treatment facility called a "clarifier," and new initial treatment facilities where wastewater enters the plant.

The \$50 million overall cost of the improvements is primarily funded with bonds that will be repaid over the next 20+ years.



Above: The two generators now in place at the Mason Farm Wastewater Treatment Plant give us the capacity to operate the entire plant when normal power service is interrupted. The generator above can produce 2,700 kilowatts (kW) of electricity at a time and the second generator has 2,000 kW of capacity.

OWASA is the public, non-profit water and sewer agency serving the Carrboro-Chapel Hill community.

