

# Summer Demand Leads to Pricier Water

Prices will increase in the summer, but the Taste of Hope program is designed to help some pay the bills.

By COLIN SUTKER  
Staff Writer

High demand for water during the summer months has led the Orange Water and Sewer Authority to implement a new rate plan to promote conservation.

The seasonal rate hike, which goes into effect May 1, will raise the cost of water from its present level of \$2.90 per 1,000 gallons to \$4.08 per 1,000 gallons between May and September. It also will drop the pay rates for water to \$2.16 per 1,000 gallons between October and April.

Greg Feller, spokesman for OWASA,

says he hopes this measure will help decrease water demand during the summer.

"The greatest conservation need is from May to September," Feller said. "It's when we get the highest peak demand."

"We had one day when the demand was over 15 million gallons, well over the yearly average of about 10 million a day."

Feller said this will be the first seasonal plan OWASA has implemented and that officials are not sure how the measure will specifically affect consumers. "It's hard to know (how it will affect water use) at this point," Feller



Town Council member Dorothy Verkerk says not enough people know about Taste of Hope.

added. "It will be interesting to see how demand is effected and evaluate that." The rate hike has caused some concern about the ability of lower-income families to afford the additional costs during those months.

"The economy is suffering, and anyone not earning a living wage will have financial problems," said Chris Moran, executive director of the Inter-Faith Council. "People are running into the problem of deciding which bill to pay."

To counter this need, OWASA sponsors the Taste of Hope program, which gives customers the option to have their bill rounded up to the nearest dollar. The difference is then put into an account and donated to the IFC to disperse among needy consumers.

"For the people who donate, it's less than a dollar a month," Feller said. "There are about 5 percent, or 600 customers, who donate. It comes to about \$3,000 a year in funds."

Town Council member Dorothy Verkerk said she is appalled at the small participation of customers.

"I think Taste of Hope is a great idea, but what I'm concerned about is that it has not registered with people," Verkerk

said. "Everybody I've talked to since (hearing about the program) has not heard about it."

Feller said that for lower-income families, the seasonal rate plan does not dramatically increase costs but rather apportions them correctly to people who use more water.

He said that according to statistics, low-income housing shows little change in water use patterns during the summer and the winter.

"Essentially, seasonal rates are not just a conservation technique," Feller said. "During peak months, they are more accurate in allocating costs to specifically heavy users."

"The rate is designed to be significantly lower in the winter to offset the higher costs in the summer."

Feller added that people are still encouraged to use water-saving devices such as low-water shower heads and to employ xeriscaping, which is landscaping that reduces the amount of grass area.

"Conservation should be a year-round push."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

*"The rate is designed to be significantly lower in the winter to offset the higher costs in the summer."*

GREG FELLER  
Spokesman for OWASA

## Developments in the War on Terrorism

### Allies Capture Kandahar Hospital

Afghan troops backed by U.S. Special Forces lobbed grenades into a burning hospital, ending a nearly two-month standoff with six al-Qaida gunmen. After the assault, the bloodied ward was littered with limbs blown off by the grenades.

### Bush Pledges Support to Afghanistan

The United States will play a leading role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, including helping the nation build its own military, President Bush said Monday as he stood with Afghan leader Hamid Karzai.

### Bush Says Captives Treated Humanely

President Bush said Monday that the 158 captives held by the United States in Cuba are not prisoners of war but are being treated well. Bush said he was trying to decide whether international rules governing treatment of POWs cover the suspected terrorists.



## Campus Calendar

### Today

5 p.m. - Want to learn to dance Bhangra? Come to Masala's general body meeting in Union 218, co-sponsored by Bhangra Elite.

7 p.m. - The Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center's Cross-Cultural Communications Institute presents a discussion and book signing with the former editor of Ebony magazine, Hans Massaquoi. Massaquoi will discuss his book, "Destined to Witness: Growing Up Black in Nazi Germany." The event will take place in the Toy Lounge of Dey Hall.

### Wednesday

11:30 a.m. - Come out until 3 p.m. for "Peace in the Pit!" sponsored by Campaign to End the Cycle of Violence. There will be live music, skits, speakers and an open mic. Share your thoughts about America's war on terrorism.

### Thursday

5 p.m. - The UNC chapter of the

## National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will hold its general body meeting Union 226.

Join the freedom fighters! 7 p.m. - The Philosophy Club will host a talk by former Professor Richard Smyth titled "Operation Skyhook, or How to Build a Philosophy House With No Foundation." The talk will take place in the lounge in Caldwell Hall.

### Items of Interest

Organize a team to fight cancer in the first UNC Relay for Life, sponsored by Campus Y Healthfocus. Information sessions will be held at 8 p.m. on Feb. 2, March 6, and March 19 or at 7 p.m. on Feb. 21 or April 4 in 103 Bingham Hall. For more information, e-mail dossary@email.unc.edu.

### The Daily Tar Heel

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## Deadline Extended

### Applications accepted until February 11, 2002

The B.S.P.H. Program in the Department of Health Policy and Administration prepares undergraduate students for management positions in hospitals, group practices, health departments, consulting firms and other health organizations in the public and private sectors.

For applications, prerequisite, courses and related questions, contact Pam McDonald, HPAA Departmental Registrar, at 966-7351 or PMcDonald@sph.unc.edu

Still wondering what to do for your sweetheart this Valentine's Day?

Your last name is "Love", you're Aphrodite reborn. With beauty, intelligence and not the least bit of scorn. Your heart belongs to another. Yet my heart and soul are yours to uncover. Give me a chance to change your mind. Choose me to be your Valentine.

Here's an idea...  
*tell them how you really feel.*

Submit a poem to the DTH today. \* All entries will be published in the Valentine's Day Special Issue Tab and prizes will be awarded for the best three. Winners receive dinner, flowers, and movie tickets...not to mention the heart of that special someone

\* For a mere \$6.

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## Wanna Be an Orientation Counselor??

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This is a great opportunity to meet people, work with new students, and move into your room early!

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- at the Union Desk
- download it online at <http://orientation.unc.edu>
- visit our table in the Pit this week

Applications are due Wednesday, February 13, by 5pm. Questions? Call the Orientation Office at 962-8521 or stop by 311 Carr Building.

THE ORANGE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Building Bridges in Our Community

In celebration of Human Relations Month, the Orange County Human Relations Commission is hosting a series of events throughout the month of February.

**Human Relations Month Kickoff**  
**February 1st at 6 pm**  
**at The Century Center in Carrboro**  
*"Orange County: Then and Now"*  
*Share the experience of our diverse communities. See how far we have come and how much farther we still have to go. Panel discussion, music and light fare provided*

**Kiran**  
**February 16th from 3-6 pm**  
**at New Hope Elementary School**  
*A South Asian musical performance and a discussion of the culture and history of the region*  
COSPONSORED BY THE ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

**Pauli Murray Awards Ceremony**  
**February 24th from 1-4 pm**  
**at A.L. Stanback Middle School**  
*Join us in recognizing individuals who have worked to promote and foster better human relations among the diverse residents of Orange County. The Pauli Murray Human Relations Award commemorates the life and achievements of the late Reverend Dr. Pauli Murray*

**Essay Contest**  
**throughout the month of February**  
*Orange County school youth in grades 6 through 12 are invited to participate in an essay contest on the topic of human relations. Call the number below for information and guidelines for participation*

All events are free and open to the public. For more information, please call the Orange County Department of Human Rights and Relations at 245-2250