

Toilets scale back water use

BY MAX ROSE
STAFF WRITER

When faced with the possibility of raising monthly dues at Cedar Court Condos because of an annual \$27,000 water bill, Property Manager Ann Aylward and the homeowners' association took a more environmentally friendly approach.

The members voted to put in efficient washing machines, make it mandatory to fix all leaks and to install low-water-use toilets and low-flow shower heads in all 50 units. The replacements and repairs cost a total of \$14,300 to the condominium owners.

In July 2006, the condominiums used 247,000 gallons of water. This July the complex used 107,000 gallons, and the monthly bill decreased by \$1,300, Aylward said.

"Everyone is just glad we did it," she said.

The residents hired plumbers to replace the 5-gallons-per-flush toilets with modern 1.6-gallon-per-flush units.

About 25 percent of residential water use is through toilets, said Greg Feller, public affairs administrator for Orange Water and Sewer Authority.

The installation and material costs associated with a new low-water-use toilet are about \$300.

A four-person family replacing two 5-gallon toilets and flushing at the average rate of 4.2 times per person per day would recoup the costs in less than four years. The current cost of water in Chapel Hill and Carrboro is \$7.65 per 1,000 gallons.

"There's a significant opportunity for savings," Feller said.

Aylward said it is important that other old facilities hear about the savings they have accomplished.

"When we found out how much of a difference we could make, we wanted to get the word to other people," Aylward said.

But a large portion of the community already has switched to the more efficient toilets, which have been required by federal law for all replacements since 1994.

Mike Orsini, production manager at the Raleigh location of the plumbing company Roto-Rooter, said that about 90 percent of the toilets they work on use 1.6 gallons per flush.

"It's pretty rare that we find a toilet that is not 1.6 nowadays," he said.

Carrboro Alderman Jacquelyn Gist said that more efficient appliances are important for conservation, especially after such a hot and dry August.

"Water is a finite resource, and we have to really manage our water



Cedar Court just installed new low-flow toilets that use 1.6 gallons of water instead of 5 gallons. Cedar Court residents support the idea.

DTH/ARMANDO ALTAMIRANO

now," she said. "The community is growing."

OWASA declared a Water Supply Advisory on Aug. 23 that alerts customers that additional restrictions might become necessary.

Feller said that although OWASA's supply is unlikely to run out in the upcoming months, a dry winter could cause problems in 2008.

He said conservation is impor-

tant to prevent the need to use new water sources in the future.

"The community has the opportunity looking into future decades to reduce long-term cost," Feller said.

"It's always a good time to conserve water."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Performance will showcase baroque music

18th century is focus of concert

BY BENNETT CAMPBELL
ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR

A quick glance at a list of notable baroque composers reads like a who's who of famous classical musicians.

Bach, Handel and Vivaldi all have created baroque pieces, which are defined by rich, heavy ornamentation.

But even though many Chapel Hill residents will recognize those names, the post-Renaissance genre's characteristics might not be the most accessible.

UNC's Department of Music will give students and residents a chance to familiarize themselves with the genre in "Celebrating the Baroque: Arias for Voice and Brass" at Franklin Street's Chapel of the Cross tonight.

"Most of the music in the concert is from the later baroque music of the early 18th century, which was expressive and often energetic, but also rich with counterpoint and complexity," said Brent Wissick, a professor of music at UNC who will be playing the cello in the performance.

Wylie Quinn, the regular organist at Chapel of the Cross, further described the genre, which began around 1600 and continued through the middle of the 18th century.

"It usually has a pretty driving rhythm. Sometimes it strikes people as almost mechanical."

And tonight the department will give the music another familiar face. Susan Moeser, wife of Chancellor James Moeser, will play the organ in the performance.

"I've played a great deal on the organ," Susan Moeser said. "In terms of music, (baroque) is probably the most satisfying on an intellectual level."

Susan Moeser said that Bach is one of her inspirations and a reason why she appreciates baroque music.

"It's remarkable how he composed individual lines that all fit together,"

"In terms of music, (baroque) is probably the most satisfying on an intellectual level."

SUSAN MOESER, ORGANIST

ATTEND THE CONCERT

Time: 7:30 p.m. today
Location: Chapel of the Cross, Franklin Street
Info: <http://music.unc.edu>

she said, praising the polyphonic texture she said the style involves.

The performance also incorporates vocals.

Jeanne Fischer, a voice lecturer in the music department, will be singing the soprano line. She will be joined by fellow voice lecturer Valentin Lanzrein, who will be singing bass.

Fischer described what baroque music demands of vocalists.

"Baroque tends to have a lot of melismata, which means fast notes, essentially," she said. "And the singer is expected to bring their own ornamentation to the piece. It involves embellishing the piece."

Moeser said that the vocals, especially in a selection by the renowned baroque composer Domenico Scarlatti, work beautifully with the instrumentation.

"There is a wonderful section where the trumpet and soprano interplay," she said.

And because it is necessary for a close listener to discern the subtleties of the vocals in the piece, Chapel of the Cross is a prime location.

Quinn said UNC uses the church primarily for its acoustics and its organ.

"UNC doesn't have many good organs," Quinn said, "And there's great acoustics and space here. It's not too reverberant."

Contact the Arts Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

OWASA sessions teach conservation

Workshops to address lawn care tips

BY DEVIN ROONEY
STAFF WRITER

Prolonged droughts mean many homeowners are looking for ways to reduce water usage.

Area residents can learn more about sustainable lawn care techniques at three workshops sponsored by Orange Water and Sewer Authority on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The workshops will address reducing water, fertilizer and pesticide use by using more effective lawn care techniques, said Mark Danieley, a horticulture extension agent at the N.C. Cooperative Extension.

Danieley, who is leading the workshops, said he will attempt to debunk many of the myths about soil preparation, seeding techniques

and watering strategies. Classes are free, but participants must register by calling 245-2050.

"Most people get their information from commercials on television or radio, and some of that information is not very good," Danieley said. "We're trying to give them unbiased, research-based information to help them make intelligent decisions about how to manage their landscaping."

Danieley said it is not necessary to water lawns three times each week. Once every two weeks for established lawns will keep grass green, he said.

OWASA Sustainability Coordinator Paula Thomas said misconceptions about lawn care are problematic in times of drought.

"The fact that we're in a sustained and dramatic drought is also going to be a focus of this workshop," Thomas said.

Orange County is listed as having a severe drought. The drought has highlighted a need to decrease water usage, said Mark Marcoplos, owner of Marcoplos Construction and former OWASA Board of Directors member from 1999 to 2006.

Marcoplos said as early as 2001 and 2002, when severe droughts occurred, many of his customers expressed interest in water-saving measures.

The success of an OWASA-sponsored workshop about sustainable landscaping last year — attended by more than 100 homeowners — encouraged Thomas to schedule more sessions this fall and winter.

The OWASA series includes a workshop on building rain barrels,

a second workshop on sustainable landscaping and a workshop on auditing homes for plumbing problems, in addition to next week's sustainable lawn care workshops.

Being smart with lawns and water is something that concerns Carrboro Alderman Jacquelyn Gist, who often says, "Grass makes us stupid."

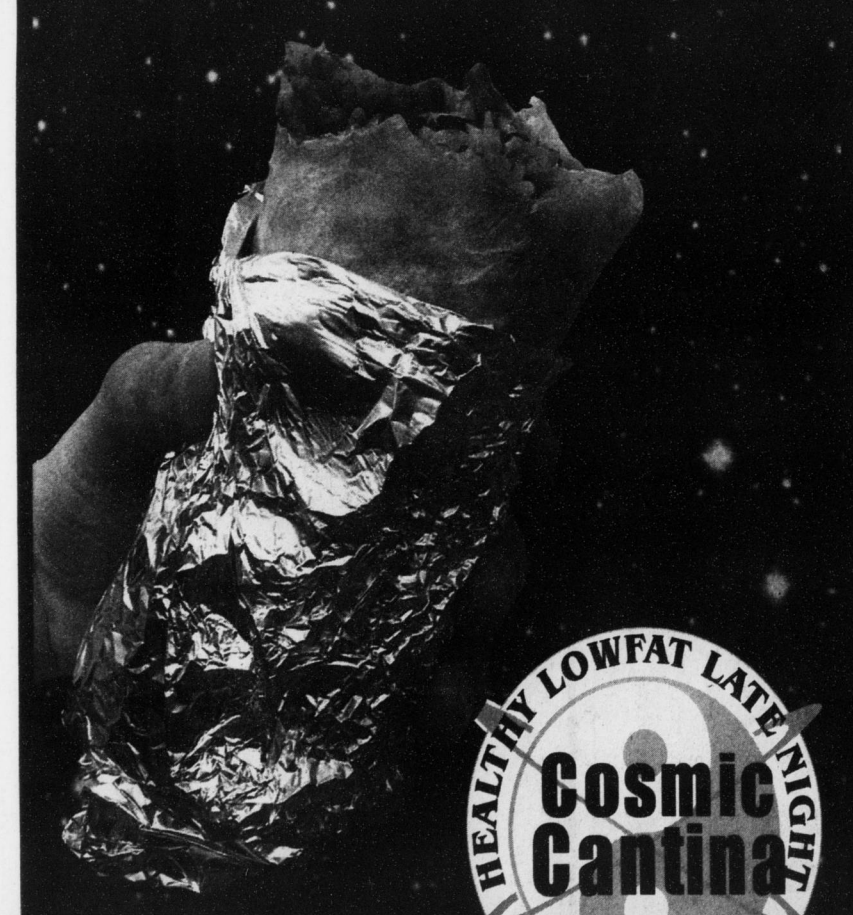
She said that reducing the amount of grass will reduce the area's water needs.

Gist said that she recognizes the importance of conservation education because many people pollute and damage the watershed unintentionally.

"It's not like there's a bunch of evil people running around saying 'Let's screw up our water supply,'" Gist said.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

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