

## Big Sky tap water named tastiest in U.S.

By Brook Gardner-Durbin Chronicle Staff Writer Jun 20, 2015

The Last Best Place is officially the best place to get a drink — of tap water, at least.

The town of Big Sky has been recognized for having the tastiest tap-water in the U.S. by the American Water Works Association in its 11th annual awards.

Second place went to Universal City, Texas. Boston (last year's winner) and Albuquerque tied for third place. South Burlington, Vermont, won People's Choice.

Ron Edwards, general manager of the Big Sky County Water and Sewer District, called the win "a nice surprise." Despite the fact Big Sky has won the association's award for best tasting water in Montana two years in a row, Edwards was not expecting to win any national awards because he did not hear anything from AWWA last year.

He said there were no changes to Big Sky's water since last year.

"We were blessed with great geography," he explained.

Big Sky gets its water from deep enough underground that it does not have to chemically treat it for safety. Many other cities, including Bozeman, get drinking water from closer to the surface, water that the state Department of Environmental Quality requires be treated. Chlorine is the most commonly used chemical, Edwards said.

"It's a safety thing, not a bad thing," he said, though he believes the taste difference could be enough to give Big Sky an advantage in the competitions.