

May 2018

SAWS waternews



Your source for all things water

What Lurks Below? Make Sure It's Not Grease or Wipes!

Snakes, and mice and roaches — oh my! These creepy critters might make your skin crawl, but it's actually not uncommon to find them inside San Antonio Water System pipes when we use camera-toting robots to inspect sewer lines.

But the real horror is when we come across items that have no business being down there, such as basketballs, stuffed animals, toy cars, and even concrete and logs.

These objects — which usually end up in our pipes after being flushed down the toilet (yes, really) or discarded through manhole openings — can cause nasty sewage back-ups.

However, the most common culprit is grease and oily food waste from pots and pans.

"Instead of trying to rinse fats, oils and grease from dishes, we recommend scraping them off with a paper towel, and disposing of it in the trash," said Donovan Burton, vice president, water resources and governmental relations.

Another big troublemaker: so-called "flushable" wipes that don't actually dissolve. These toilet-choking towelettes can clump together with grease and oily food leftovers to jam up sewer pipes, causing thousands of dollars in damage.

The next time you're cleaning up after a meal, don't forget to scrape the grease off of pots and pans into the trash. And remember: no matter what the product packaging says, only the three Ps are truly flushable: pee, poo and (toilet) paper.



Northeast Side Sewer Project On Schedule

Massive Pipeline Serves Half Million People



May 14-21 is National Infrastructure Week, a yearly reminder that the country's roads, pipes and power grids don't fix themselves. San Antonio Water System recognizes the importance of maintaining infrastructure. That's why we're investing more than \$1 billion over 10-12 years to inspect, clean and upgrade sanitary sewers throughout the city. This includes replacing six miles of enormous sewer pipe on the Northeast Side.

The Holbrook-Ira Lee wastewater project is on schedule and about 25 percent complete. The effort will nearly double the capacity of this major sewer trunk line, which transports waste for more than half a million residents via a pipe big enough to stand in. The \$68 million pipeline follows Salado Creek from North of Loop 410 through Fort Sam Houston and ending near I-35 at Seguin Road.

The first phase, from Seguin Road to Rittiman Road, is expected to be complete by April 2019. Phase 2 will begin later this year and is scheduled for completion by spring 2020.

To learn more about this and other sewer projects in your area, visit saws.org/sewer.

Join the MySAWS Conversation:



Mad about plants? Visit the Festival of Flowers, Saturday, May 26, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Austin Highway Event Center, 1948 Austin Highway. Enjoy landscape exhibits, a floral design challenge and a citywide plant exchange! Details at safestivalofflowers.com

Event Calendar

WaterSaver Walks

June 1 & 21

San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
sabot.org/walks

Bulverde Oaks Nature Preserve Tour

June 2

Bulverde Oaks Nature Preserve
Judson Road at Loop 1604
greensatx.org/events

Texas Folklife Festival

June 8-10

UTSA Institute of Texan Cultures
801 E. César E. Chávez Blvd.
texasfolklifestival.org

Beginner Bird Walk

June 23

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center
10750 Pleasanton Road
mitchelllake.audubon.org

Fourth of July Artisan Show

June 29 - July 2

River Walk Extension
(near Convention Center)
thesanantonioriverwalk.com

Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency

210-704-SAWS (7297)
saws.org/waternews

SAWS Board Welcomes Fresh Faces

SAWS Board Chairman Berto Guerra Jr. and President/CEO Robert R. Puente officially welcomed two new Trustees at the utility's April 3 Board meeting.

Amy Hardberger is an associate dean and professor at St. Mary's University School of Law. She is a registered professional geoscientist and previously served as an attorney for the Environmental Defense Fund, where she led the partnership with cities and interfaced with Texas state agencies on municipal water conservation policies.

Eduardo Parra currently serves as the CEO of Parra & Co, a Texas-based engineering consulting firm. He has served as engineer-of-record and engineer-in-responsible-charge for design and construction of water and wastewater utility projects, disaster recovery and preparedness efforts, as well as energy-related projects in the U.S. and abroad.

SAWS Trustees are appointed by San Antonio City Council. The mayor also serves as an ex officio member.



Pencil In Some Family Fun

Longing to spend your weekends in the great outdoors? There's plenty of "green" family fun to have, including wildlife workshops, nature walks, plant sales, gardening activities and much more. See for yourself on the GardenStyleSA calendar!

Located on the right side of the GardenStyleSA.com home page, the calendar is updated regularly as new events come to our attention.

Check it weekly to find out what's happening in your neck of the woods and area of interest! And while you're there, sign up for our weekly GardenStyleSA e-newsletter.

GARDEN STYLE
SAN ANTONIO



Got Your WaterSaver Coupons Yet?

If you're planning to refresh your landscape in time for summer barbecues, you've got until May 31 to apply for SAWS WaterSaver coupons.

SAWS residential customers can apply for up to four \$100 WaterSaver coupons in order to replace part of your thirsty lawn with lush, drought-tolerant garden beds and/or permeable patios.

For each coupon, you must remove at least 200 square feet of grass and cap any irrigation heads in the area where you install

beds or patios. And if you have an automatic irrigation system, you must schedule a free irrigation consultation before you begin.

Each coupon will cover only a portion of the cost of the plants or patio materials. But you can combine the coupons to your liking to create an inviting outdoor living space!

Learn more and apply online at GardenStyleSA.com/coupons.