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.

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.

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.
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.

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.