

## Desal Plant On Track to Open This Fall



It's been nearly two years since SAWS broke ground on a new desalination plant in far south Bexar County. Today, Phase 1 of the plant is already 85 percent complete — on budget and right on schedule to come on line this fall.

Located at the existing SAWS Twin Oaks Aquifer Storage and Recovery site, San Antonio's new desalination plant will pump salty water from deep underground in the Wilcox Aquifer and filter it to produce 12 million gallons of fresh water a day. That's enough water to supply 40,000 families.

The facility will include 12 production wells and two injection wells, in addition to a water testing laboratory and treatment processing area. A visitor center will give guests an up-close-and-personal look at various areas of the plant, including the control room, lab and water treatment facilities.

Desalination uses a filtering process called reverse osmosis that removes 99.9 percent of the salts and minerals in the water. Every 10 gallons of brackish water will be converted to 9 gallons of drinking water. The remaining salts and minerals that are removed will be injected deep into the ground into an area where existing salt concentrations are even higher.

Once treated, the water will taste the same as Edwards Aquifer water and will blend with the rest of the tap water in our system. Total cost of the desalination plant when complete is \$411 million. While this supply of water requires more treatment than other SAWS supplies, it is plentiful and unaffected by drought conditions.

## SAWS Helps Neighbors in Need



SAWS sent a 5,000-gallon tanker truck to Crystal City on Friday, Feb. 19, to distribute fresh drinking water to residents. The town was under a boil water notice after sediment from the water tower entered the distribution system, resulting in discolored water. "Whether it's hurricanes on the gulf or a flood in Del Rio, our staff has a proud history of helping others," said SAWS President/CEO Robert R. Puente. "We consider it part of our mission."

Join the **MySAWS** conversation:





▶ The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration is hosting National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, April 30. Check [dea.gov](http://dea.gov) to find a drop-off location near you.

# Local Calendar

## Coupons Are Back: Get Your Gardening On

Spiff up your landscape for spring with a little help from SAWS! Once again SAWS is offering two different coupon programs for up to \$600 in savings.

The WaterSaver Patioscape Coupon and WaterSaver Landscape Coupon are available through April 30. You can apply for up to two coupons in each program.

A few things to remember:

- For the landscape coupon, you must purchase 15 plants from the plant list and the landscape area must be mulched.
- You must remove at least 200 square feet of turf per coupon and cap irrigation heads in the project area.
- For the patioscape coupon, you must purchase 80 percent of the patio material.
- Coupons will not cover the complete purchase of plants or materials so do plan on some out-of-pocket expense.

Apply online at [GardenStyleSA.com/coupons](http://GardenStyleSA.com/coupons).

## WaterSaver Landscape Tour is April 9

Need inspiration for your WaterSaver coupon project? Get a rare look at seven landscapes that offer different approaches in design, but share the common goal of saving water during the WaterSaver Landscape Tour, Saturday, April 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Gardening Volunteers of South Texas will serve as docents at each stop in the elegant Inverness community. The event is free and open to the public. Shuttle buses will leave from and return to the Barshop Jewish Community Center, 12500 NW Military Hwy.

Shuttle reservations are strongly encouraged. Sign up online at [WaterSaverLandscapeTour.org](http://WaterSaverLandscapeTour.org).



## San Antonio Book Festival

April 2  
Central Library  
600 Soledad  
[saplf.org/festival](http://saplf.org/festival)

## Starving Artist Art Show

April 2-3  
La Villita  
418 Villita St.

## Bat Loco

April 9  
Medina River Natural Area  
15890 Hwy 16 South  
210-207-3103

## Earth Day

April 16  
Woodlawn Lake Park  
1103 Cincinnati  
[sanantonio.gov](http://sanantonio.gov)

## Get Social with SAWS on Nextdoor, Periscope

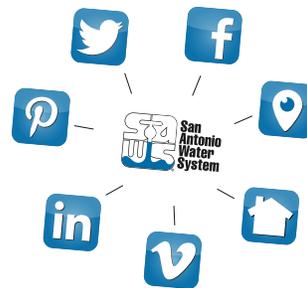
SAWS is expanding our social media channels with Nextdoor and Periscope. These new networks join the MySAWS Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Vimeo social media accounts.

With Nextdoor, we'll relay information about emergency situations that may affect service to your neighborhood, along with events and money- and water-saving programs.

On Periscope, we can live broadcast and offer two-way interaction, meaning customers can watch our segments AND send us questions or comments while we're live. Join us each Thursday at 10:30 a.m.

for conservation and gardening topics, and look for special SAWS event broadcasts.

Both Nextdoor and Periscope offer free mobile apps for iOS and Android. Or you can engage via their respective websites.



Join the MySAWS conversation today!

## Potty on Parade

Your eyes are not deceiving you – that is, indeed, a giant toilet rolling down South Alamo Street. SAWS will once again participate in the Fiesta Flambeau Parade on Saturday, April 23. Riding atop the "Texas-Size Flush" float this year will be King and Queen of the Throne, Prince and Princess of Pipes, Duke and Duchess of Drains, and Baron and Baroness of the Bath. SAWS employees competed for their respective royal titles by decorating hard hats to raise money for Project Agua, our bill assistance program for customers in need.



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