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waternews



Your source for all things water

Pipe Bursting: It's Not Just for Sewers Anymore

There's an old proverb that says you've got to crack a few eggs to make an omelet. In the water and wastewater world, sometimes you have to crack a few pipes to improve underground utilities.

SAWS has used pipe bursting for years as a cost-effective and less disruptive way to replace old sewer mains. Here's how it works: A bullet-shaped steel "bursting head" is pulled with a winch through the old pipe, breaking it into pieces as it goes. The replacement pipe, which is attached to the back of the bursting head, is pulled into place, destroying the old pipe and installing the new one in a single motion.

Crews recently put their sewer pipe bursting experience to use on the water side of the business for the first time ever when they replaced a 1932-era, 6-inch cast iron water main on the city's South Side.

"It's not only a faster way to replace water mains, but it's also longer lasting and it significantly reduces costs," said Lance Rothe, project manager.

From start to finish, the project took just nine days to replace 674 feet of pipe — and that included careful excavation around

three gas mains to avoid damaging them.

Traditionally, crews would have cut a deep trench along the entire length of the main to replace it. Another option: They could dig a brand new trench for the new pipe and just abandon the old one, Rothe explained.

Pipe bursting, in contrast, can be done with just a small excavation at each end, avoiding the need to remove and replace hundreds of feet of topsoil, concrete or asphalt. "We significantly reduced the amount of surface restoration with the pipe bursting method," Rothe said.

The next water pipe bursting project is scheduled to start soon on Brooklyn Avenue near Alamo Street downtown where a 10-inch cast iron main, originally installed in 1884, will be replaced.



WaterSaver Coupons Have Sprung!

Got big ideas but a small budget? SAWS WaterSaver Coupons are here to help you create the beautiful, water-saving landscape you've always wanted — and save a ton of money doing it!

Through May 31, SAWS residential customers can apply for up to four \$100 WaterSaver coupons to replace part of your thirsty lawn with lush, drought-tolerant garden beds and/or porous patios. That's a whopping \$400 in savings!

From salvias and esperanza to plumbago and Pride of Barbados, these radiant, water-efficient

plants will brighten up your landscape and save water year-round.

You must remove at least 200 square feet of grass per coupon. You'll also need to cap any irrigation heads in the area where you will install beds or patios.

If you have an automatic irrigation system, contact us to schedule a free irrigation consultation at consult@saws.org or 210-704-SAVE (7283).

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

Join the MySAWS Conversation:



Event Calendar

San Antonio Book Festival

April 6

San Antonio Central Library
600 Soledad
festival.saplif.org

Starving Artist Art Show

April 6-7

La Villita Historic Arts Village
418 Villita St.
lavillitasanantonio.com

Earth Day 2019

April 13

Woodlawn Lake Park
501 S. Josephine Tobin Drive
westsidedevcorp.com

Mission Marquee Farmers & Artisans Market

April 20

Mission Marquee Plaza
3100 Roosevelt Ave.
missionmarquee.com

Beginner Bird Walk

April 27

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

Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency

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

Weeds Gone Wild? Nix 'em Naturally!

Weeds are a part of life when you garden. Fortunately, there's a simple and natural recipe to help you win the war on weeds — and give your back a break.

You only need three ingredients: 20-percent white vinegar, orange oil and dish soap. (You can find these at many garden and home centers.)

From a 1-gallon jug of vinegar, pour out and discard about 1/4 cup. Then, add to the jug two tablespoons of soap and four tablespoons of orange oil. Replace the cap

and gently shake for a few seconds.

Pour some into a spray bottle and spray liberally onto all parts of the weeds you intend to kill. It helps to spray during the hottest part of a sunny day. You may need to repeat the application after two days if rainfall or new shoots occur.

Store the vinegar mixture in a cool, dark place, but not in the spray bottle — the vinegar may degrade the trigger mechanism.

This mixture works well on weed and grass seedlings as well as broadleaf weeds.

A Flush of Fiesta Fun Is Coming Soon

Fiesta season is coming up fast and once again SAWS will be a big part of the celebration — a big toilet, that is.

Yes, the tidy bowl of titanic proportions will be rolling along the Fiesta Flambeau parade route, this time with an unexpected twist. Also, keep an eye out for SAWS' charismatic Running Toilet at various events around town. Of course, there will be a fresh new take on our ever-popular toilet medal to collect!

Follow MySAWS on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to get the scoop on where we'll be throughout the 10-day Fiesta celebration, April 18-28.



Legislator Lowdown at H₂Oaks



SAWS President/CEO Robert R. Puente welcomed State Rep. Lyle Larson and members of the House Natural Resources Committee he chairs, along with other state officials, to the H₂Oaks Center, Jan. 31. The group was treated to a tour of the desalination and aquifer storage facility in far south Bexar County. Pictured, left to right, are Rep. Tom Oliverson, Texas Water Development Board Chairman Peter Lake, Rep. Four Price, Larson, Rep. Ana-Maria Ramos, Rep. Will Metcalf, Rep. Mike Lang, Rep. Jessica Farrar, Rep. Erin Zwiener and Rep. Alex Dominguez. Water-related bills being considered by the Texas Legislature this session include measures involving both groundwater desalination and aquifer storage.