

April 2019

waternews



Your source for all things water

Digging Deep for a Waterful Future

If you live or work in the Stone Oak area, you may have noticed two large water tanks taking shape near Las Lomas Elementary School just off of Hardy Oak Boulevard. But you'd be hard pressed to guess what's going on 40 feet beneath the surface, where hungry-looking machines are gradually chewing their way through a solid limestone wall.

The massive tunnel is part of the Central Water Integration Pipeline, which will distribute water from the Vista Ridge project — San Antonio's largest-ever non-Edwards Aquifer water source — when that drought-proof supply comes on line in 2020.

Meanwhile, two miles away near Cornerstone Church, more rock-eating contraptions are chomping away at the other end of the underground passage that will soon be home to a 54-inch diameter steel water main.

"Tunneling is expected to be complete by July," said Alissa Lockett, SAWS director of engineering. "We have contractor crews working 24-7 to meet our deadlines so we can make sure to get the water into town in April 2020."



The bulk of mechanical muscle is provided by a tunnel boring machine, or TBM. The 6-foot-diameter, worm-like apparatus is so big it has to be lowered down a shaft in pieces and assembled underground, Lockett explained.

"The TBM is the workhorse in this process," she said. "Once the tunneling is complete, crews can begin installing the pipe, and that needs to be done by December 2019."

When complete, the Vista Ridge project will deliver more than 16 billion gallons per year of groundwater from the Carrizo and Simsboro aquifers in Burleson County. That's enough to meet about 20 percent of San Antonio's water needs, helping secure

our city's water future for generations to come.



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Join the MySAWS Conversation:





Celebrate **World Migratory Bird Day** at Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, Saturday May 11. Enjoy live birds of prey presentations as well as bird-themed games, crafts and a native plant sale. Details at mitchelllake.audubon.org.

Event Calendar

Botanical Soap Making

May 4

San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
sabot.org

MedDropSA

May 11

Brooks City Base
8261 Boyle Rd.
meddropsa.com

Native Plant Walk

May 17

San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
sabot.org

Mission Marquee Farmers & Artisans Market

May 18

Mission Marquee Plaza
3100 Roosevelt Ave.
missionmarquee.com

Beginner Bird Walk

May 25

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

Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency

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

Hummingbirds Love Our WaterSaver Coupons!

Roll out the welcome mat for our tiniest avian friends! Our WaterSaver coupons make it easy — and affordable — to add some (or all) of these hummingbird-approved plants to your yard.

Esperanza — Both the native and tropical varieties are drought-tolerant sun-lovers with bright yellow, trumpet-shaped flowers.

Mexican Honeysuckle — This tropical American native is drought-hardy and can handle sun or partial shade.

Red Yucca — A native of South Texas, this coral, red or yellow-flowered plant can stand up to extreme sun and arid conditions.

Pride of Barbados — Hummingbirds delight in this stalwart's plentiful blooms when many other plants have given up in the Texas heat.

Turk's cap — This Texas native with long-lasting red flowers handles shady and partly shady conditions.

Apply for up to \$600 in landscape savings at GardenStyleSA.com/coupons.

Catch the Running Toilet: SAWS Fiesta Medals Are Here!

Are you ready for medal mania? SAWS is joining the Fiesta fray again this year with a festive new take on our popular toilet medals.

The medals will be on sale at SAWS Customer Centers for \$10 each (cash only — limit 5 per customer) while supplies last. SAWS conservation medals also will be \$10. A limited supply of SAWS medals from previous years also will be available for \$5 each.



Proceeds from medal sales will benefit Project Agua, SAWS' payment assistance program that helps thousands of San Antonio families who are struggling to pay their water bill.

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

Viva Fiesta!

Festival of Flowers: A WaterSaver Rewards Event

Eager to earn some valuable WaterSaver Rewards points? You'll have a prime opportunity Saturday, May 25, at the Festival of Flowers.

Make your first stop the SAWS Conservation Station where you'll get a free xeriscape plant (while supplies last, of course). Next, pop in to one of the how-to gardening seminars filled with tips and tricks for landscaping success.

Returning favorites include the famous

plant exchange, floral design challenge, cooking demonstrations and an indoor "gardening mall." (Be sure to have cash or checks on hand as some vendors may not accept credit cards.)

The fun happens May 25, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Austin Highway Event Center, 1948 Austin Highway. Admission is \$7 for adults, children younger than 10 get in free.

Not a WaterSaver Rewards member yet? Sign up online at GardenStyleSA.com/rewards.