

July 2019

# waternews



Your source for all things water

## New Operations Centers Promise Efficiency, Cost Savings

To stay ahead of San Antonio's remarkable growth, SAWS has been working on major upgrades to its operations centers — to make sure the workers who keep your faucets and sewers running can keep their daily duties flowing just as smoothly.

SAWS operations centers are the hubs for all the activities that keep our water and sewer services going. These centers, spread across the city, are where maintenance crews are dispatched, materials are stored and vehicles are maintained.

Construction is underway on new buildings and improvements at two existing operations centers. It's the second phase of a multiyear program to expand and modernize SAWS field operations sites citywide.

The East Side Operations Center on Houston Street is SAWS' largest. Originally built as a trucking company and supply warehouse, the site was acquired by the City Water Board in the early 1990s. The Northwest Operations

Center on Wurzbach Road was built in 1973 on what was then the far edge of San Antonio's suburbs. While both facilities served the utility well, the aging structures had become inefficient and costly to maintain.

The project is using pre-engineered metal buildings as a lower-cost alternative to traditional construction. The new structures are also being built to meet LEED Silver equivalency standards, to save both water and energy.

In addition, the buildings are using the same materials and finishes as SAWS' other operations centers, to keep maintenance costs more affordable.

The project also aims to eliminate congestion at existing service center sites and reduce drive times for SAWS crews, resulting in faster response to emergencies.

The \$19.25 million project is scheduled for completion by July 2020.



## Don't Get Soaked By Your Lawn This Summer

Scorching temperatures are nothing new this time of year. But thanks to our wetter-than-normal spring, things are a little greener than usual heading into the dog days of summer — including our lawns.

In the absence of drought restrictions, you might be tempted to water more often to keep that lush, emerald turf from withering in the summer heat. If you do, your next water bill may be a real soaker.

SAWS uses tiered pricing to encourage water conservation. So the more water

you use, the more you'll pay per gallon. But it also means you can save money quickly with small reductions in water use.

The best way to save water and money this summer? Stick to a one-day-per-week watering schedule. Better yet: Hand water using a hose-end spray nozzle. Your water bill will be lower, and you'll also protect your lawn from diseases caused by overwatering.

For more money- and water-saving tips, visit [GardenStyleSA.com](http://GardenStyleSA.com) or call 210-704-SAVE.

Join the MySAWS Conversation:



Nothing tastes better than food you grow yourself. But if you want your yard to look lush and not like a farm, **Edible Landscapes** is the workshop for you! 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 24 at Rainbow Gardens, 8516 Bandera Road.

## Event Calendar

### San Antonio Film Festival

**July 30 - Aug. 4**

Tobin Center for the Performing Arts  
100 Auditorium Circle  
[safilm.com](http://safilm.com)

### Discover Birds at Brooks

**Aug. 3**

The Greenline at Brooks  
2532 Sidney Brooks  
[mitchelllake.audubon.org](http://mitchelllake.audubon.org)

### Explore the Canyon

**Aug. 17**

Government Canyon State Natural Area  
12861 Galm Road  
[tpwd.texas.gov](http://tpwd.texas.gov)

### The Ugly Duckling

**Aug. 18**

San Antonio Botanical Garden  
555 Funston Place  
[sabot.org](http://sabot.org)

### Wishing Lanterns

**Aug. 24**

San Antonio River Walk  
600 E. Market St.  
[thesanantonioriverwalk.com](http://thesanantonioriverwalk.com)

**Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency**

**210-704-SAWS (7297)**  
[saws.org/waternews](http://saws.org/waternews)

## Stay Safe in the Summer Sun for More Fun

Dehydration can be a big concern this time of year, especially during outdoor activities. If your body loses too much moisture it can lead to heat stroke and even death.

Follow these tips to stay safe in the sun:

- Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.
- Don't wait until you feel thirsty to take a drink.
- Eat plenty of fruits and veggies.



- Avoid drinks with alcohol, sugar and caffeine.
- Wear sunscreen.

If you're over the age of 65, overweight, or take heart or blood medication, you may be more susceptible to heat stroke. Need a break from the heat? Call 311 for the location of a city cooling station near you.

And remember to plan strenuous activities early in the morning or in the evening when it's cooler.

## #SAWSsummer Simmers On!

When the weather heats up, SAWS kicks off the cool summer fun. Follow @MySAWS on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to find out where our #SAWSsummer celebrations will pop up next! It's a watery way to beat the heat — and who knows water better than SAWS!



## Honoring the Legacy of a Waterful Leader

SAWS facilities are rarely named after people. That changed May 31 when a new moniker was unveiled at San Antonio's largest wastewater treatment plant.

Steve Clouse retired last December after 33 years of service, most recently as senior vice president and chief operating officer. Clouse's legacy as a champion of water and wastewater excellence was celebrated with a ceremony at the facility that now bears his name: the Steven M. Clouse Water Recycling Center.

SAWS President/CEO Robert R. Puente lauded Clouse's impact on the San Antonio community. "He has proven himself to be a visionary leader who has altered the course of our utility and our city for the better," he said.

Quick to share the spotlight, Clouse credited all the employees who run the treatment plant, day in and day out, for its success. "It's an unbelievable honor to have my name associated with this plant," he said.

