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# waternews



Your source for all things water

## Discover Your Garden Style at Spring Bloom!

What's your style? Garden style, that is.

San Antonio is home to many diverse styles of architecture and landscape design — from cottage, mid-century and traditional to Texas Hill Country and Spanish courtyards.

Whatever your design aesthetic, this year's Spring Bloom event will celebrate them all and help you discover your own unique garden style!



Local gardening experts will divulge their secrets to successful landscaping and how to select a style that best suits your home's terrain and character. And don't miss the panel discussion where esteemed landscape pros reveal their own favorite garden styles.



Also, SAWS conservation staff will share "SAWS Selects" — their go-to, can't-miss plant picks for San Antonio's challenging climate. You can even shop for these tried-and-true varieties right there at the event!

Of course, the first 1,000 adult guests will receive a free plant. That's in addition to the free admission and free parking.

Get all the details at [GardenStyleSA.com/SpringBloom](http://GardenStyleSA.com/SpringBloom).



**IT'S GARDEN STYLE  
YOUR STYLE**



### A Major Breakthrough for Vista Ridge

Despite the contraption's pun-worthy name, there was nothing "boring" about it when this 8-foot boring machine chewed its way through the limestone wall of an access shaft on Sigma Road at Loop 1604. The January breakthrough marked completion of the 0.7 mile tunnel segment, the first of three underground passages under construction for the Central Water Integration Pipeline. The project will convey Vista Ridge water southward from Agua Vista Station in Stone Oak into north central San Antonio.

Join the MySAWS Conversation:





**Earth-Kind Planting Principles** are the topic of Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service's brown bag lunch and learn at the Bexar County Extension Office, Friday March 13. Free and open to the public. Details at [bexarmg.org/events](http://bexarmg.org/events).

## Event Calendar

### Spring Break Plant Sale

**March 7**

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

### SAWS Spring Bloom

**March 14**

SAWS Headquarters  
2800 U.S. Hwy. 281 North  
[GardenStyleSA.com/SpringBloom](http://GardenStyleSA.com/SpringBloom)

### St. Patrick's Day Festival & Parade

**March 14-15**

Arneson River Theatre  
418 Villita St.  
[thesanantonioriverwalk.com](http://thesanantonioriverwalk.com)

### Beginner Bird Walk

**March 28**

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center  
10750 Pleasanton Road  
[mitchelllake.audubon.org](http://mitchelllake.audubon.org)

### Monarch Fest

**March 28-29**

San Antonio Zoo  
3903 N. St. Mary's St.  
[sazoo.org](http://sazoo.org)

### Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency

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

## Water Bill Look a Little Different?

As of Jan. 1, your SAWS services are now being billed at our new rates.

The average residential customer can expect to see an increase in their bill from \$65.83 to \$72.38, or 9.9 percent (excluding regulatory pass-through and stormwater fees). Your own bill may change more or less depending on how much water you use.

In 2015, City Council approved water supply fee adjustments for 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 to assure completion of the Vista Ridge water supply. The adjustment will also allow other multiyear water and sewer projects to move forward.

The new rates are for Water Supply Fee and Recycled Water only. There are no changes to the water delivery or wastewater rates for 2020. To estimate

how your own bill will change, use the rate calculator at [saws.org/calculator](http://saws.org/calculator).

## Water Use Mystery? There's an App for That

Keep tabs on your water use in real time with a Flume Flow Sensor — free after rebate for qualified SAWS customers. (You only pay sales tax and shipping.)

Flow sensors use the power of your smartphone to let you know when your water is running. This can tell you exactly how much water you're using and determine if you have a leak.

Learn more and apply online at [GardenStyleSA.com/sensor](http://GardenStyleSA.com/sensor).



## Tackle Preseason Landscape Chores Now

If the spring-like temperatures have you itching to get gardening, go for it! There are a few maintenance tasks you can tackle now to prep for spring planting.

- Mow winter weeds repeatedly.
- Pinch back cool season herbs like cilantro, parsley and dill weekly.



- Prune perennials to 3 inches above the ground — but leave frozen plants until the end of February to give wildlife food and shelter.
- Cut back rose branches 1/3 from the tips to a bud.
- Begin planting perennials and shrubs.

## Honoring Dr. King



SAWS employees and their families joined more than 300,000 of their fellow San Antonians to march for the dream at the 2020 Martin Luther King Day March, Monday Jan. 20. San Antonio's annual MLK Day proceedings are among the largest in the U.S. to commemorate the civil rights leader's message of equality and peace.