



Your source for all things water

Retiring Trustees Leave Legacy of Water Security

Aug. 4 marked the end of an era for SAWS, and three retiring Board members.

President/CEO Robert R. Puente and Mayor Ron Nirenberg thanked Chairman Heriberto “Berto” Guerra Jr., Vice Chairwoman Pat Jasso, and Assistant Secretary Pat Merritt for their service during the trio’s final meeting.

“In the decade of the 2010s, you have achieved what people for generations thought was impossible for our community — long-term water security,” Nirenberg said.

For nearly a decade, Guerra navigated SAWS through its most transformative years, bringing three new water supplies on line, including the recently completed Vista Ridge pipeline.

“You assured us that if the Board voted on something, you were going to be there to make sure it came to fruition,” Puente told Guerra.

SAWS also achieved the best bond ratings in the utility’s history on Guerra’s watch, resulting in tens of millions of dollars in savings for

SAWS ratepayers. Guerra insisted this success and many others were not his alone.

“It took all of us, every single Board member and every staff member, to get this done,” he said.

Ever the advocate for the most vulnerable in our community, Jasso was lauded for her continuous support of SAWS customer assistance programs during her seven years of service.

“The team here at SAWS has always been willing to help (board members) learn more about water,” recalled Jasso.

And long-time educator Merritt spent her seven-year tenure passionately supporting SAWS education programs.

“Before I joined the SAWS Board, the only thing I knew about water was the water cycle,” said Merritt, adding that we are never too old to learn.

SAWS Trustees are appointed by San Antonio City Council. Three new members are expected to be sworn in at the Board’s September meeting.



Missed a Bill Payment and Need More Time To Pay?

From lost jobs to unexpected expenses, the coronavirus pandemic has taken a toll on many families’ finances.

If you can’t pay the full balance on your SAWS bill, setting up a payment arrangement will keep your account in good standing while letting us know when and how you’ll pay.

Here’s how it works:

1. Select the number of months you’d like to pay (3, 6 or 9 months).
2. Your total account balance will be

divided up into equal, affordable monthly payments.

3. Starting with your next bill, you will pay the total current charges on your bill plus the arranged amount.

You can sign up for payment arrangements online at saws.org/arrangement. Or call us at 210-704-SAWS (7297).

You may also qualify for one or more of our 14 different bill payment assistance programs. Learn more and apply today at saws.org/uplift.



Help slow the spread — wear a mask in public.

For the latest coronavirus guidance for San Antonio and Bexar County, visit sanantonio.gov/covid19. You can also text "COSAGOV" to 55000 or call 311.

Schedule Your No-Contact Irrigation Checkup

Got an in-ground sprinkler system? Make sure it's in tip-top shape with a no-contact house call from SAWS!

One of our experts will come to your home to do a complete system checkup and review your landscape — all while you remain safely inside.

If you prefer a phone consultation without the on-site visit, we can do that, too! Schedule your checkup today at **210-704-SAVE**.

Get Gardening for Fall!

Autumn is the time of year every South Texas gardener looks forward to. The milder temperatures and shorter days make it ideal for planting.

And, the nurseries are bursting with new varieties to help rejuvenate your landscape. An added bonus: WaterSaver Coupons are still available.

Through Oct. 15, SAWS residential customers can get up to four \$100 coupons to help replace part of your thirsty lawn with colorful, drought-hardy plants and permeable patio pavers. That's \$400 in savings!

Here's a few more reasons to get out and garden.



- Planting trees and shrubs now gives their root systems plenty of time to recover from transplanting and grow new roots.
- Cooler temperatures reduce overall plant stress.

- Increased rainfall this time of year reduces watering needs for new plantings.

- Pesky pests — especially mosquitoes — retreat due to cooler temperatures.

Landscape and Patioscape Coupons must be redeemed by Nov. 15. Successful projects get a bonus \$30 mulch coupon. Apply today at GardenStyleSA.com/coupons.

Down with the Old, Up with the New

The old SAWS East Side Service Center main building is no more. Rising from the rubble of the outdated, three-story structure at I-10 and E. Houston Street is a modern, energy-efficient administration building and a new supply warehouse.

The project is part of an ongoing effort, launched in 2010, to improve SAWS field crew dispatch facilities citywide. To reduce costs, all new and updated operations center locations are using the same floor plans,



building materials and energy-saving systems. This makes both maintenance and operations more efficient.

Prior to demolition, SAWS removed HVAC units, audio-visual equipment, lockers, furniture and other equipment to reuse in the new facility. Metal, copper and concrete debris were also carefully sorted for recycling.

The entire E. Houston Street dispatch site is being rebranded as the East Side Operations Center and is already occupied by SAWS staff.

Make the Most of Hand Watering

Watering by hand saves the most water and allows you to enjoy the garden you have worked so hard on. Plus, watering by hand is the only method allowed any day and time during drought restrictions.

Here are some helpful hand-watering tips:

- Use a watering wand with a cutoff valve to apply water in a circular motion to help it soak in completely.

- Water flowering plants at their base.
- Water shrubs and trees at the outer canopy drip line to reach the most active roots.
- Less frequent, deep watering that reaches under mulch and into soil layers is best.

Visit GardenStyleSA.com for weekly watering amounts and landscaping tips to keep your yard looking great using less water.



Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency
210-704-SAWS (7297)
saws.org/waternews