

July 2021

waternews



Your source for all things water

Water Bill Past Due? SAWS Can Help You Stay Current and Connected

More than a year after the coronavirus crisis upended life as we knew it, things are finally resembling pre-pandemic days. Teachers and students are going back to the classroom, employees are returning to the office and businesses are resuming normal operations — and that includes San Antonio Water System.

In March 2020 as part of our COVID-19 response, SAWS halted water service shutoffs for non-payment. The last thing anyone needed was to worry about losing their water service. And now that things are returning to normal, **we are still here to help you.**

“We know our customers didn't get into this situation overnight, and so we're not expecting anybody to get out of this situation overnight,” said Gavino Ramos, vice president of Communications and External Affairs.

SAWS will resume service disconnections beginning in October 2021 for customers with large past-due balances, but our goal remains the same: to keep your water on.

With a payment plan or other financial assistance, we can help you stay connected. If you're unable to pay your total account balance, a payment plan will prevent your water service from being disconnected while giving you more time to pay.

- Visit saws.org/arrangement and choose a payment option. The total account balance will be divided into equal, affordable monthly payments.

- Need more time? Call 210-704-7297 to discuss other payment options.
- Each month, you will need to pay the payment arrangement amount PLUS your current monthly charges by the bill's due date.

You may also qualify for one or more of our need-based assistance programs. To find out, visit saws.org/uplift or call 210-233-CARE (2273).



Don't Get Soaked by Summer Watering

Summer scorch is settling in and your once-lush emerald turf is sweltering. Before you run your irrigation system extra days and times, remember this: too much outdoor watering will soak your water bill.

The average irrigation system uses 2,000 gallons every time it runs. That may not sound like a lot. But with tiered pricing, the more water you use, the more you pay per gallon. So running your sprinklers just once a week can **DOUBLE** your water bill. Watering 2-3 times per week? Your bill could be **SIX TIMES HIGHER!**

The good news is you can save money quickly with even 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 still: Hand water using a hose-end spray nozzle. Your water bill will be lower, and you'll also protect your lawn from fungus and diseases caused by overwatering.

For more money- and water-saving tips, visit GardenStyleSA.com/SummerWatering or call 210-704-SAVE.

Join the MySAWS Conversation:



Enjoy a guided tour of Bulverde Oaks Nature Preserve

Get a close look at rescued beehives, pollinator meadows and native wildlife. Group size limited. Register now for an upcoming Saturday tour at greensatx.org/events.

Event Calendar

Wellness at the Tobin

Aug. 7

Tobin Center for the Performing Arts
100 Auditorium Circle
tobincenter.org

Movies by Moonlight

Aug. 14

San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
sabot.org

Starving Artist Art Show

Aug. 14-15

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

Guided Bird Tour

Aug. 22

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



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

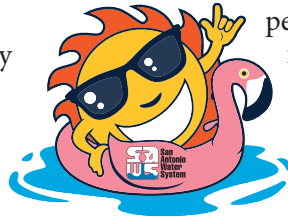
Simmer On with #SAWSsummer Celebrations!

With the decline in COVID-19 in our community, our #SAWSsummer celebrations are back — and we may be coming to a pool, library or park near you!

From in-person meetups to video broadcasts of cool spots to visit during our sizzling summer, you don't want to miss the fun! Also, families and individuals can submit their names into social media drawings for a chance to win an exclusive #SAWSsummer-in-a-box surprise!

This package contains all the swag you need to celebrate summer in sizzlin' SAWS-style — T-shirts, sunglasses, beach towels,

visors and more! If you're lucky, SAWS' celebrated running toilet mascot may personally deliver the goods and pose for a photo op.



**SAWS
SUMMER
2021**

If you can't show up in person (shucks!) or miss a broadcast, you can catch the replay of select #SAWSsummer videos on our social media channels, including YouTube.

Follow @MySAWS on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to find out what's coming up on our #SAWSsummer schedule and how you can join the fun in person or online. It's a waterful way to beat the heat — and who knows water better than SAWS!

Don't Plant — Prep Instead

Summertime, with its stifling heat and scant precipitation, is not the ideal time to plant.

The best thing you can do for your parched landscape right now is prep it for autumn planting — especially if you want to take advantage of SAWS' WaterSaver Coupons.

Here's what you can do now:

- Add compost to turf and beds. Organic matter increases soil's water-holding capacity.
- Apply mulch to landscape beds. Two inches of wood chips or pine bark mulch helps retain moisture for weeks and reduces water needs by half.



Tackle these simple tasks now and you'll be ready when fall planting season begins.

Banish Biting Bloodsuckers

All the weeks of drought-busting rain showers this spring were great for landscapes and wildflowers. But they've also ushered in an unwelcome pest: mosquitos by the millions.

Stop swatting and start enjoying your great outdoors. Here's how to prevent these masters of misery from hanging around.

- Eliminate ALL standing water. Even a tablespoon of water can breed mosquitos.
- Clean bird baths or wildlife water features often.



- Add fish to your ponds. They feast on mosquito larvae.

And the No. 1 way to keep mosquitos at bay? Reduce irrigation! Excess water can collect on vegetation and clay soils and become a mosquito breeding hotspot.