

# Water

**N E W S**

**October 2004**

## SAWS Partners with Audubon Society to Launch New Preserve at Mitchell Lake

Mitchell Lake Wildlife Refuge, long a destination for tens of thousands of migratory birds, is now a little friendlier to a different kind of visitor – people.

SAWS and Audubon Texas are celebrating the launch of the Mitchell Lake Audubon Center. The Center serves the greater San Antonio community with nature education programs, using the resources around the 600-acre lake and adjoining wetlands as an outdoor classroom for visitors of all ages.

SAWS has long supported the lake's use as a birdwatching spot but now offers visitors more access to the site through the assistance of the Audubon Society. Audubon will operate the 600-acres of leased property, and be responsible for facilitating public use and providing public tours and educational programs at the site.



*Officials at the opening included (l-r) Lon Carpenter, Frost Bank; John Flicker, National Audubon Society; Iliana Pena, Manager of the Mitchell Lake Audubon Center; Susan Houston, Audubon Texas; and Jim Mayor, SAWS Board Chairman.*

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center is located at 10750 Pleasanton Road. Hours for the center are Saturday, 8am – 4pm and weekdays by appointment. For more information on hours call the center at 210-628-1639.



*Migrating birds like these Roseate Spoonbills are spectacular visitors in the fall and spring.*

*The Fairchild Warblers Youth Group helps Audubon officials and Councilman Ron Segovia unveil a scale-model replica of the visitor center that will be home to purple martins.*



## Neighborhood Leaders Get a Close-Up Tour of SAWS Facilities

Leaders of neighborhood groups toured sites across the city to gain a better understanding of the range of work and challenges that SAWS manages each day. It was a great opportunity for citizens to get a first-hand experience of the size and complexity of the system that includes over 9,000 miles of pipe.



*Neighborhood leaders from Districts 1-5 get ready to head out on the SAWS tour.*



### Dr. Morris Stribling Chairman; Alamo City Chamber Board

Dr. Stribling, a native of Buffalo NY, is a local podiatrist and serves the community as the Chairman of the Alamo City Chamber Board. He has developed numerous programs to benefit African-American business owners, emerging leaders, woman and youth interested in entrepreneurship. Dr. Stribling also founded and is chairman of the Black Business Expo of San Antonio. He's been extremely active in development projects in the East Side, including those that have involved our city's infrastructure.

*"SAWS is doing a tremendous job on the East Side because they recognize that the infrastructure here and throughout downtown is old and worn out. Some of these pipes here are over 100 years old and need to be replaced. And this isn't a situation that's unique to San Antonio. It's an issue that's happening all across the country.*

*"The changes and upgrades that SAWS has done along Houston Street and with the SBC Center are essential for the future growth of the city. I'm also on the zoning commission for the city and we work with local developers and businesses that are looking to relocate here, like Toyota. Well, in order to attract more businesses like that we need to make sure we have a stable, dependable supply of water. And I think SAWS has an excellent water resources plan to help us do just that."*

## SAWS Treatment Plants Receive National Awards



The *Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies* (AMSA), recently recognized SAWS Water Recycling Centers for our performance in complying with the EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System during the calendar year 2003.

Medio Creek Water Recycling Center received a Gold Award for its performance in 2003. Medio has received seven AMSA awards in the last seven years – two Gold and five Silver awards.


Dos Rios Water Recycling Center also received a Gold AMSA Award for performance in the 2003 calendar year. Dos Rios has received this award for the last eight consecutive years – seven Gold and one Platinum.

The Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies is a professional organization representing over 300 agencies and organizations that serve the majority of the sewered population in the United States and collectively treat and reclaim more than 18 billion gallons of wastewater daily. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) is administered by the EPA and is an outgrowth of the Clean Water Act.

*The Chlorine Institute* recently recognized SAWS for Environmental Achievement Award for no reportable releases of chlorine for the last six consecutive years. The SAWS Water Recycling Centers that received this award were Leon Creek, Salado Creek, and Dos Rios. This was the first time SAWS has applied for and received this award.

The Chlorine Institute, founded in 1924, is a trade organization of companies and other entities that are involved in the safe production, distribution, and use of chlorine. Institute members account for 98 percent of the U.S. production of chlorine and related chemicals.

## Avoid the Flu Bug



October marks the beginning of the flu season. The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) recommends persons six months of age and older get a flu shot. Flu shots are very safe, effective, and cannot give you the flu because the vaccine is made with a dead virus. Pneumonia vaccinations are also highly encouraged for persons age 65 years and older, and persons with chronic health conditions. For more information, contact your healthcare provider or for a schedule of SAMHD clinics, call 207-8790. Immunize for life. Protect yourself against flu and pneumonia.

## Evite el Virus de Influenza

Octubre seña el comienzo de la temporada de influenza. El San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) recomienda que todas personas de seis meses de edad o mayores que reciban la vacuna de influenza. Las vacunas de influenza son muy seguras, efectivas, y no le causa la influenza porque las vacunas utilizan virus muertos. La vacuna de pulmonía también se anima para personas de 65 años de edad o mayores y personas con condiciones crónicas de salud. Para más información, hable con su médico o para un horario de clínicos del SAMHD llame al 207-8790. Vacúnese por vida. Protéjase contra el flu y pulmonía.

## Correction

In the last issue, a reporting error mis-captioned a photo of Bandera and Loop 410 water main repairs as costing \$26 million. The repairs actually cost \$26,000.

## In Our Community

### Heirloom Appraisal Day,

**Nov. 13 (Sat.), 9am - 4pm**

Bring your prized heirloom to Crossroads Mall for this opportunity to get a verbal appraisal of your family heirloom for \$20, or have six items appraised for \$100. Along with appraisers, specialized artisans will hold educational demonstrations.

*Proceeds from the day will benefit the San Antonio Lighthouse – a private, non-profit organization that has served blind or visually impaired people for over 70 years.*



**Oct. 1 - Nov. 15**

In celebration of Dia de Los Muertos, the Centro Cultural Aztlan is coordinating a calendar of month-

long exhibits and events in conjunction with the City of San Antonio's Fall Art Festivals.

Featuring Altares, Ofrendas, Calaveras, Flores, Pan de Muerto, Chocolate, Visual Arts, Poetry, and Music, Dia de Los Muertos is a colorful flurry of traditional and contemporary festivities that celebrate ancestral remembrance and harvest season rituals from Central Mexico's indigenous cultures.

For more information, or for a calendar of events, contact Centro Cultural Aztlan at 432-1896, on visit their website at [www.sacalaveras.com](http://www.sacalaveras.com).

### Affordability Programs

SAWS offers a number of programs to help customers having financial hardship with their water bills. To determine if you qualify, please call San Antonio's Community Action Division at 207-7830.

Water News is published for customers of the San Antonio Water System. For more information regarding Water News, contact the Public Relations Department at (210) 704-7320.

#### Numbers to Know

Business Office	704-SAWS (704-7297)
Customer Account Information	704-SAWS
Jobline	704-SAWS
T.D.D.	704-1852
CleanStream Hotline	212-5326

#### 24-Hour Emergency

Customer Service/  
Water Waste Reporting 704-SAWS  
Visit our web site at [www.saws.org](http://www.saws.org)