

Water

N E W S

May 2005

SAWS New Building Move Enters Final Phases

The new headquarters for San Antonio Water System, located just north of Mulberry on 281, is progressing well. You can't see it from the outside, but careful plans are being executed to use the space efficiently and combine office areas for employees currently working in various locations throughout the city.

SAWS CEO Dave Chardavoyne said, "We're taking advantage of the new organizational structure and developing office areas based on these new groups. It means that we're going to have huge savings both in travel time as well as increased efficiencies in operational areas."

Stacey Isenberg, SAWS Vice President of Corporate Initiatives, is leading the remodeling and move plans.

"We're looking at a phased-in move that will start in early fall, culminating in full occupancy by the end of November," said Isenberg. "Most of the employees will be coming from the Main Office building on Market and from Cypress Towers on N. Main; there will also be others coming from our Houston Street and Mission Road locations."

SAWS trustees recently approved the sale of the SAWS Main Headquarters on Market Street to the City of San Antonio effective May 31, with full vacancy by November 30.



Warmer Weather Brings Increased Water Use

With warmer, drier weather, many San Antonians are watering their lawns more. Here are a few points to remember when you break out your sprinkler:

Watering Restrictions

Year-round, landscape watering is not allowed during the day after 10 a.m. and before 8 p.m., except with a hand-held hose or five-gallon bucket. Charity car washes are permitted only at certified commercial car wash facilities. Water waste is prohibited at all times.

Call **704-SAWS** (or 704-7297) to report water waste or violations of water ordinances and help keep the aquifer levels above critical stages.

Bexar County's Presence Felt in 79th Legislature

The 79th Texas Legislature convened this year and San Antonio is benefiting from strong representation. Three Bexar County Representatives are Chairs and two are in the powerful Appropriations Committee:

Committee Chairmen:

- Rep. Robert Puente, Natural Resources
- Rep. Frank Corte, Defense Affairs & State-Federal Relations
- Rep. Carlos Uresti, Government Reorganization

Appropriation Members:

- Rep. Ruth Jones McClendon
- Rep. Jose Menendez

In the Senate, San Antonians are also in important committee posts:

- Sen. Judith Zaffirini, Vice Chair, Finance
- Sen. Frank Madla, Chairman, Intergovernmental Relations
- Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, Veterans Affairs and Military Installations

These positions will help assure that San Antonio will have a voice when budget, water, air quality, health care, and municipal issues are decided.

Some water issues that are being deliberated this season include:

- SB3 is omnibus legislation proposed to address some of the critical water resource issues in Texas. SAWS focus has primarily been on Article 5, concerning changes for the Edwards Aquifer Authority. Discussion is also going on clarifying whether or not Texas Commission on Environment Quality has the authority to issue instream flow permits.

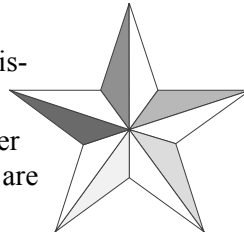
➤ Preserving the Four Corners Doctrine,
Continued on page 2

79th Legislative Session (cont.)

which outlines how amendments to a surface water permit are issued.

All of these issues are critically important to San Antonio's water plan, and our staff is working hard to ensure that the city's needs are addressed by the legislature.

Conservation issues is also a topic being debated by the legislature. San Antonio's conservation program has become the model for other cities to follow, and legislation has been filed to encourage other cities to fully utilize conservation programs as part of their water resource plans.



Seasonal Irrigation Program Has Secret for Low-Water Use AND Green Grass

The amount of water your lawn needs is probably less than you think. But how do you know how much it takes to keep it healthy? Just follow SAWS Seasonal Irrigation Program (SIP) advice each week.

The weekly SIP of water for your lawn is based on a concept called "Evapotranspiration" or "ET" for short. It's a way of measuring the amount of moisture a plant loses through its leaves and soil. This measurement determines how much water a plant actually needs to thrive. It is calculated from weather data each day and adjusted for your type of grass and sun exposure.

The ET/SIP concept has been tested in San Antonio for five years and has been proven to save water and money for participants. In fact, the average homeowner saves over 5,000 gallons or about \$15 a month.

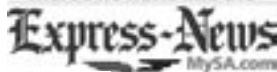
SIP advice is available many ways. It is printed each Saturday in the Home & Garden section of the San Antonio Express-News. A telephone hotline, 281-1478, provides a recording with SIP advice every day. Or, you can even register online to receive a weekly e-mail or phone message with SIP advice personalized for your grass type, sun exposure and watering day.

To request a free SIP workshop for your neighborhood, contact SAWS Conservation at conserve@saws.org or 704-7479.

Seasonal Irrigation Program is brought to you through a partnership between San Antonio Water System and the Texas Cooperative Extension.

WaterFest 2005

Despite some bad weather, WaterFest Family Day 2005 was a great success this year with about 6,500 attending. Thanks to everyone who joined us April 30 for some great and learning experiences. Thanks also to our sponsors:



Clip for savings!

\$1 Off

Admission \$4
Free for Kids
under 8.

Festival of Flowers

Sat., May 28, 9am-5pm;

Alzafar Shrine, 901 N. Loop 1604 West

This year water-saving landscape design will be featured. Top horticulturalists and landscape experts will speak.

You can also enter the Potty-O-Gardens Contest featuring gardens with your recycled items. For more information call 930-1100 or visit their website at SAFestivalofFlowers.com.

San Antonio Summer Art and Jazz Festival June 4-5, Crockett Park

Welcome the summer in at the San Antonio Summer Art and Jazz Festival. There will be two days of world-class jazz music, plus you can view and buy some of Texas' best arts & crafts. Great food will also be available.

Music starts at 11:30a.m. on Saturday and at noon on Sunday. Admission is free. Sorry, but backpacks, ice chests, coolers, and video recording are not allowed. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and pick a cool spot at one of the hottest jazz events in town!

Drinking, bathing, cleaning, cooking....

Many people take water for granted. But everyday, families risk losing water service because they can't afford to pay their water bill. If you'd like to help keep water flowing to our neighbors in need, you can contribute to Project Agua, a non-profit program from SAWS helping customers pay their water bill. It's simple and no contribution is too small to help. Just look for the donation box on the return portion of your SAWS bill.



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	